THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF JAPAN

1

ART: TSUGIHARA RYUJI
STORY: HIDAKA YOSHIKI

RAIJIN GRAPHIC NOVELS

桜木健一郎

日本国初代大統領

Message from the Author

TSUGIHARA RYUJI

In all my experiences as a manga artist, I have never put so much effort into developing the subject matter and theme of a manga by way of interviews and reporting as I did for The First President of Japan.

I worked with a talented group of people that I like to call "the Brain." In creating a manga about politics, economics, foreign affairs and the military, I needed as much help and information as I could get. Looking back, it was an extremely challenging and fulfilling project.

I interviewed many present day politicians and military consultants and discussed the work day after day with Mr. Hidaka Yoshiki, with whom I brainstormed this idea into a story. Those days were filled with labor, but also satisfaction.

While working on this project, I flew over to Washington, D.C., visited the Pentagon and even boarded a nuclear aircraft carrier, the USS Carl Vinson, to experience what it all felt like. I must admit it was a bit scary.

I boarded a small transport plane in Oahu (Hawaii) that took me to the Carl Vinson. When our small craft hit the four wires to stop the plane, the shock that came from the landing made me feel as though I was going to die. To give you an idea of how bad it was, the editor who accompanied me passed out!

The First President of Japan was created after a great deal of interviews and research. It is not just a product of my imagination. It is the outcome of a lot of time and effort put into making the story realistic and believable. In that sense, I can proudly say that this is a manga that reflects current international politics.

I hope that when people read this manga, many will realize the state of international relations—especially between that of the U.S. and Japan. International politics present a very dramatic scenario. I hope and pray that this manga will contribute to a closer and more prosperous relationship between the U.S. and Japan.

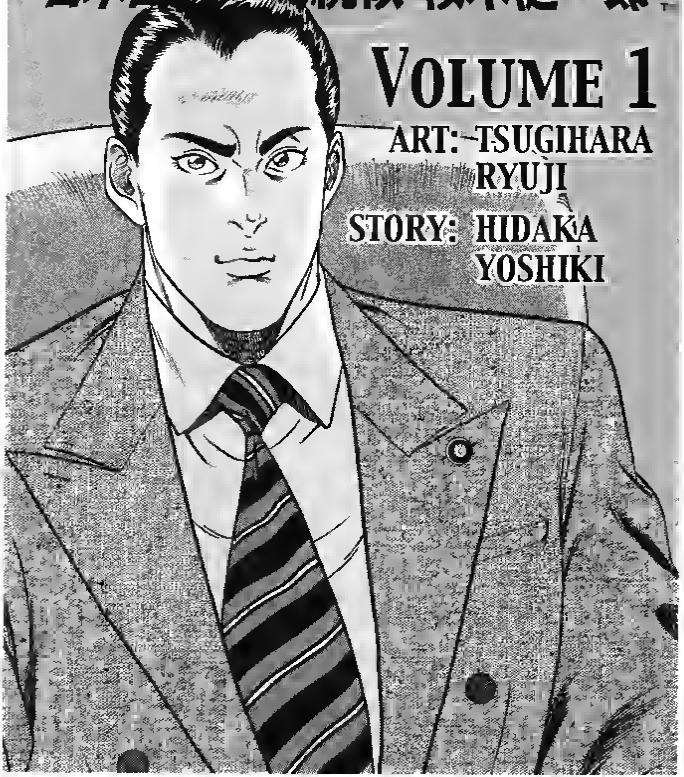
I have tried to bring to life, in the best possible way that I could, a realistic view of international politics that newspapers and television news programs cannot, or do not, express. I am sure that one day, I will have to do a sequel. There are so many things going on in the world—so many themes and incidents to cover.

But for now, please sit back, relax, and enjoy the story. You can see for yourself the true face of the relationship between the U.S. and Japan.

THE CONDITION FOR INDEPENDENCE FROM AMERICA

THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF JAPAN

日本国初代大統領・桜木健一郎



VOLUME 1

ART: TSUGIHARA RYUJI

STORY: HIDAKA YOSHIKI

INTRODUCTION

Japanese manga are much more than the light entertainment of American comic books. Although it has its share of escapist comedies and adventure stories, manga writers have also written many titles aimed at adults, with stories that express concerns and ideas about the realities of modern life. One of the best examples of this genre is *The First President of Japan*. In this series, which ran in BART magazine from 1998 to 1999, political analyst Hidaka Yoshiki teamed up with manga artist Tsugihara Ryuji to create a gripping political suspense thriller.

Although the events and the characters are fictional, the ideas and inspirations behind the story could easily be taken from Japan's newspaper headlines. The situations depicted are all based on political situations and historical events that are common knowledge for the Japanese, but may be unfamiliar to foreign readers. Some of this background knowledge is outlined below.

Japanese Political Structure

The Japanese government underwent a significant change in their political system with the adoption of a new constitution following World War II. Under this new law, the new political system was based on the English Parliament and called "The Diet" (diet meaning "council of princes" in Old German). This Diet consists of two Houses—the House of Representatives and the House of Councilors—where members of both Houses are elected representatives of the people. The Prime Minister, however, is designated by the Diet and appointed by the Emperor. For this reason, the average citizen has no control over the election of their Prime Minister.
In addition to a newly designed political system came the renunciation of war. In accordance with Chapter II, Article 9 of the new Japanese Constitution, Japan is prohibited to maintain war potentials—on land and in the air and sea. Furthermore, they are forbidden to threaten to or use force as means of settling international disputes. Japan has what is called a "Self Defense Force", but only as means of national security.

Asian Political Dynamics in Post World War II Asia

War has been a lingering threat in Asia ever since the end of WWII, and there are several unresolved conflicts.

China and Taiwan

After the Communists woo the revolution in China in 1949, the previous Nationalist government fled the mainland to the island of Taiwan. To this day, China insists that Taiwan is a breakaway province which rightfully belongs under the Beijing government, and which they intend to reclaim. Meanwhile, the Taiwanese officially claim that Mainland China belongs to them, and that the Communists are merely temporary usurpers.

North and South Korea

The Korean peninsula is equally tense. Like Germany, it was divided into two countries after WWII—the Russian-backed North and the American-backed South. In 1950, North Korea launched a surprise attack against South Korea, triggering the 3-year Korean War. Although they declared a truce in 1953, North and South Korea have technically been in a state of war ever since. There are still occasional shots fired across the border. In the summer of 1999, North Korea launched a nuclear-capable missile over Japan into the Pacific Ocean, a move that has left the Japanese in fear of North Korea ever since.

The United States and Asia

American military bases are spread throughout the region. There are large U.S. bases in South Korea and Japan, as well as U.S. Navy bases in Taiwan. The Russians have their own bases in the Kuriles, a set of islands just north of Hokkaido. These islands originally belonged to Japan and were annexed by Russia after their defeat in 1946.

THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF JAPAN

Volume 1

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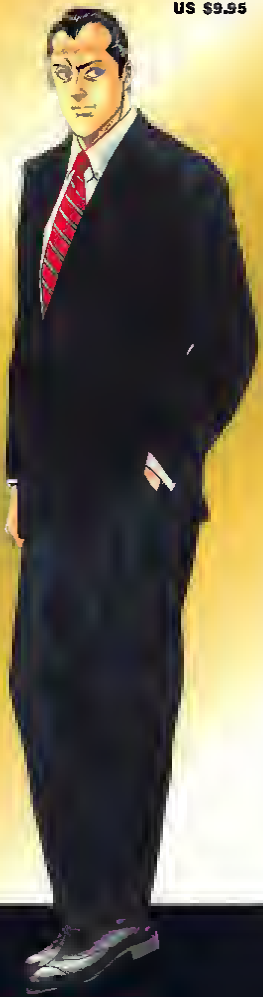
THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF JAPAN™



As the Far East erupts in chaos, a new leader appears in Japan. Caught in the crossfire between Asia and the West, will he be able to lead his country through this crisis?

Fed up with self-serving bureaucrats and ineffective politicians, the Japenese restructure their government. Under their new system, voters will be able to directly elect e Prime Minister with expended executive powers, who will be, in effect, the first "president of Jepen." Sakuragi Kenichiro, a reform minded independent candidate who was educated in America, wins the election. The incumbent Prime Minister, embarressed at his loss, vows revenge.

Just as Sekuragi preperes to take office, wer breaks out in Asie. Chine, the United States end the other super-powers begin to take sides end execute their stretegies, end all sides attempt to use Jepen as a pawn.

Can Sekuragi implement his reforms while fending off both the entrenched bureaucrecy and enemies abroad?

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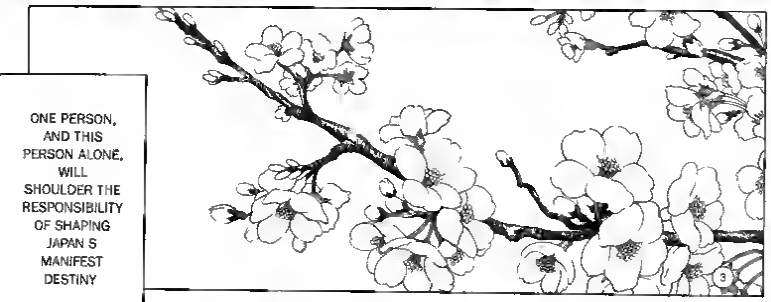
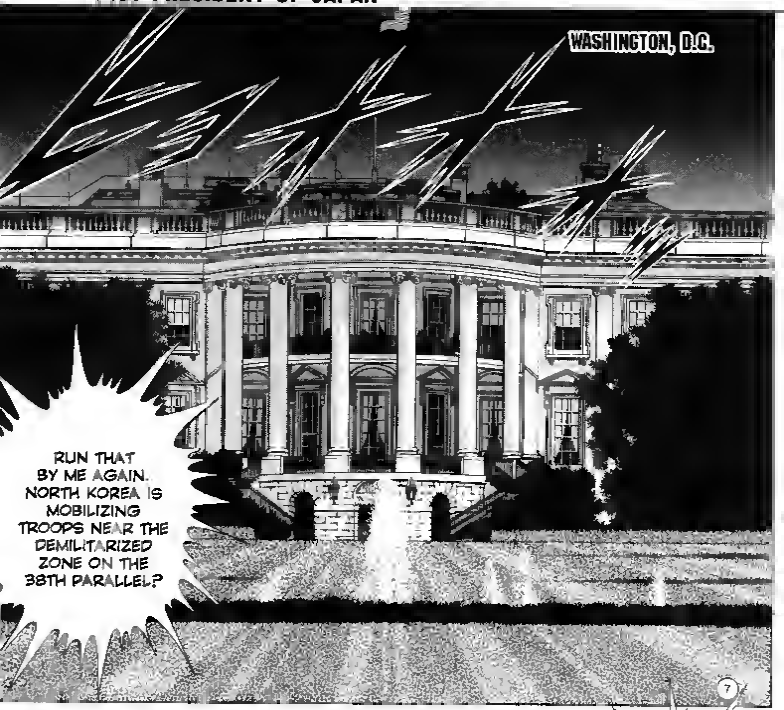
A PRIME MINISTER IS ABOUT TO BE ELECTED BY POPULAR VOTE FOR THE FIRST TIME
JAPAN S POLITICAL LANDSCAPE IS ON THE VERGE OF A MOMENTOUS CHANGE
2

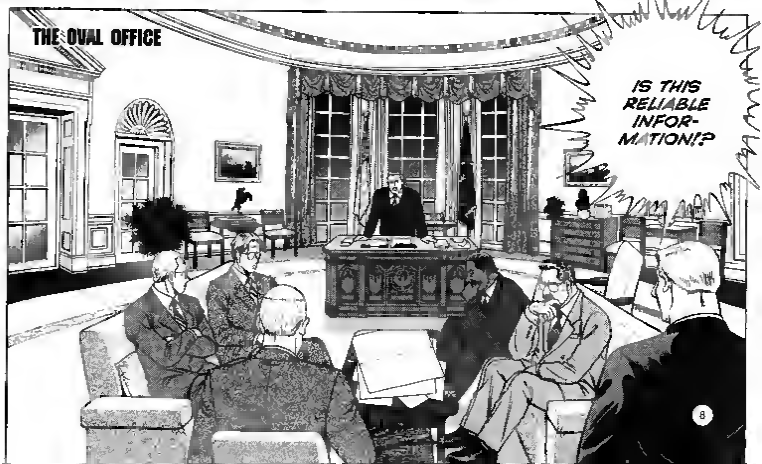


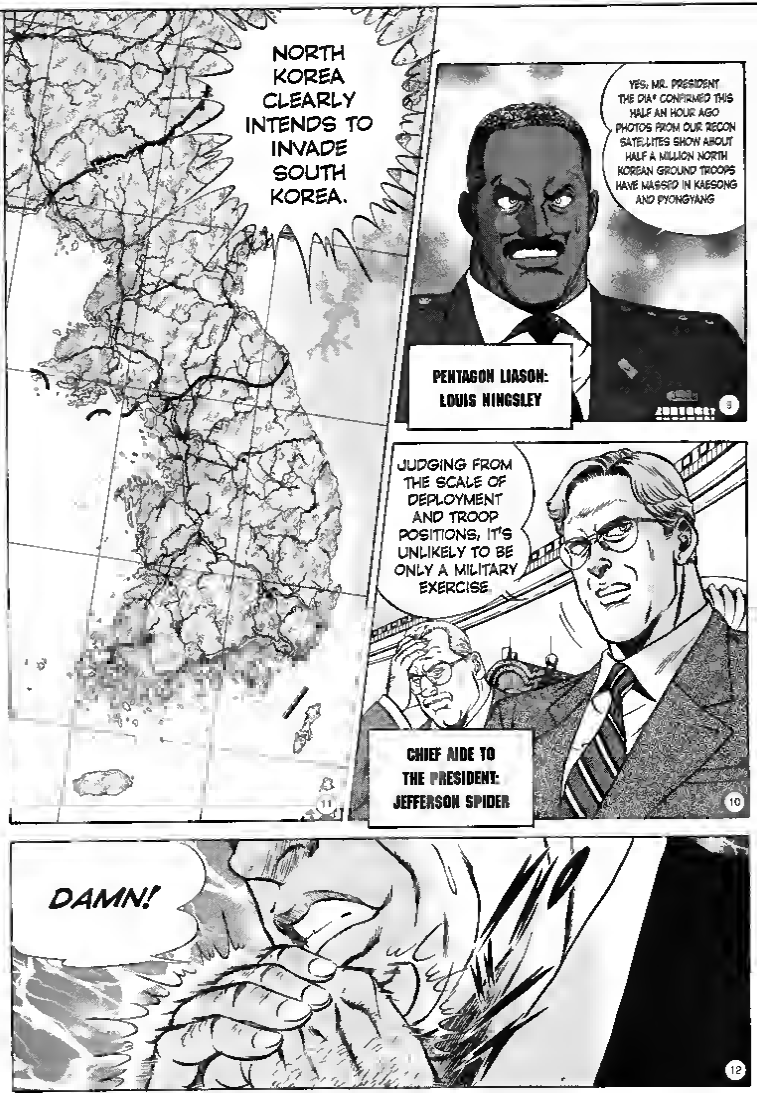
CHAPTER 1 : THE UNLUCKIEST PRESIDENT

CHAPTER 1 :
THE UNLUCKIEST
PRESIDENT

THE NEW PRIME MINISTER WILL HAVE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, THE AUTHORITY EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
4
THE VOICE OF A NEW JAPAN DEMANDS IT BE HEARD.
5
BUT WILL IT BE HEARD AMIDST THE SHATTERING OF THE WORLD ORDER?
6


WASHINGTON, D.C.
RUN THAT BY ME AGAIN. NORTH KOREA IS MOBILIZING TROOPS NEAR THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE ON THE 38TH PARALLEL?


THE OVAL OFFICE
IS THIS RELIABLE INFOR-MATION!?

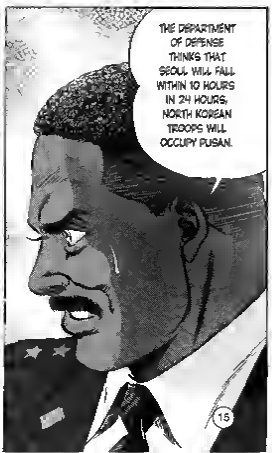

NORTH KOREA CLEARLY INTENDS TO INVADE SOUTH KOREA.
YES, MR. PRESIDENT. THE DIA* CONFIRMED THIS HALF AN HOUR AGO. PHOTOS FROM OUR RECON SATELLITES SHOW ABOUT HALF A MILLION NORTH KOREAN GROUND TROOPS HAVE MASSED IN KAESONG AND PYONGYANG
PENTAGON LIAISON: LOUIS HINGSLEY
JUDGING FROM THE SCALE OF DEPLOYMENT AND TROOP POSITIONS, IT'S UNLIKELY TO BE ONLY A MILITARY EXERCISE.
CHIEF AIDE TO THE PRESIDENT: JEFFERSON SPIDER
DAMN!

*DIA: DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

GENTLEMEN, WHAT WE HAVE LONG FEARED IS FINALLY COMING TO PASS.
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: ALEX CARRADINE
13

SIR!
MR. KINGSLEY, YOUR ANALYSIS. IF NORTH KOREA WERE TO ATTACK THE SOUTH, WHAT WILL HAPPEN?
14

IN SHORT, SOUTH KOREA WILL FALL IN ONE DAY!
16


THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE THINKS THAT SEOUL WILL FALL WITHIN 10 HOURS. IN 24 HOURS, NORTH KOREAN TROOPS WILL OCCUPY PUSAN.
15

ACTIVATE AN EMERGENCY ORDER IMMEDIATELY
PLACE ALL OF OUR ASSETS THROUGH-OUT ASIA ON EMERGENCY STANDBY
17
MR PRESIDENT, YOUR ORDERS?
18
YES, MR PRESI-DENT!
20
ONCE THINGS GET HOT IN THE FAR EAST...
..THE PROBLEMS WON'T BE RESTRICTED TO THE KOREAN PENINSULA
21

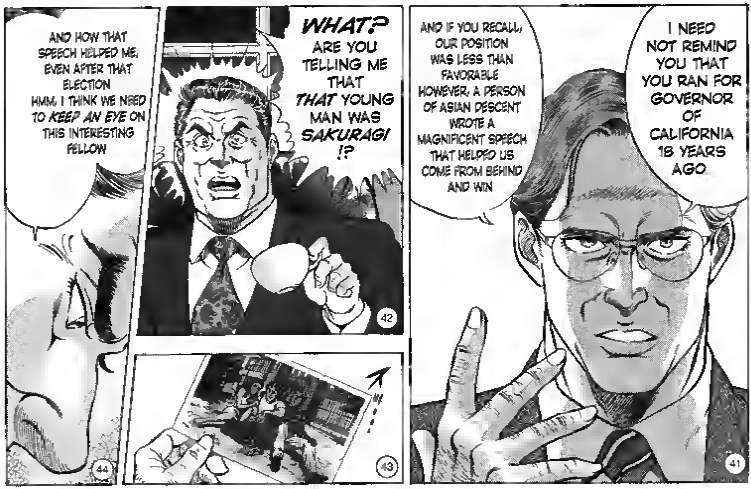
SURE, COME IN
GACHAK
COFFEE, SIR?
AN ALL-OUT WAR IN KOREA HAS TO BE PREVENTED AT ALL COSTS
THANK YOU, MR PRESI-DENT
THANK YOU IT'S DELICIOUS AS USUAL
トトト!
ACCORDING TO THE U.S - JAPAN SECURITY TREATY, WE CAN REQUEST THE USE OF THEIR CIVIL BASES AND HARBORS IN FAR EAST CRISES I BELIEVE WE SHOULD DO SO IMMEDIATELY
WHAT SHALL WE TELL THE JAPANESE GOVERN-MENT?

ISN'T JAPAN ABOUT TO ELECT ITS FIRST PRESIDENT?
28
KENICHIRO SAKURAGI.
ARE YOU SURE HE'S GOING TO BE ELECTED?
29
YES, SIR
SO, TELL ME, WHAT'S HE LIKE? I'VE HEARD THAT HE WAS YOUR *VERY* CLOSE FRIEND.
30
OR RATHER YOUR *WIFE'S*
HUH?
31
SHRINK...
32
YOU GOT ME THERE HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THAT, SIR?
33
HA HA HA! DON'T WORRY, I DIDN'T USE THE CIA!
34

THAT'S HIM.
35
C... COUGH
MY! YOU LOOK SO YOUNG, MR. SPIDER!
36
I GOT TO KNOW SAKURAGI AT STANFORD.
OUR FATES HAVE BEEN INTERTWINED SINCE WE VOLUNTEERED FOR YOUR ELECTION CAMPAIGN.
37

AND I THINK MY WIFE WAS DRAWN TO HIM EVEN MORE THAN I WAS.
HE WAS QUITE ENGAGING CHARISMATIC, IN FACT.
39
38

UH, SORRY, SIR. HOWEVER, HE IS NOT EXACTLY UNCONNECTED TO *YOU* EITHER
OK, ENOUGH SENTIMENTAL TALK I NEED TO KNOW HIS POLITICAL ABILITIES.
40

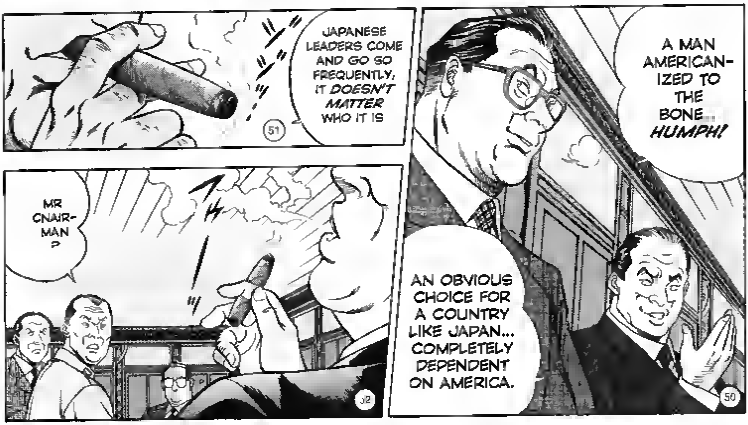

I NEED NOT REMIND YOU THAT YOU RAN FOR GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA 18 YEARS AGO.
AND IF YOU RECALL, OUR POSITION WAS LESS THAN FAVORABLE HOWEVER, A PERSON OF ASIAN DESCENT WROTE A MAGNIFICENT SPEECH THAT HELPED US COME FROM BEHIND AND WIN
41
WHAT? ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT *THAT* YOUNG MAN WAS *SAKURAGI* !?
42
!!!
43
AND HOW THAT SPEECH HELPED ME, EVEN AFTER THAT ELECTION
HMM, I THINK WE NEED TO *KEEP AN EYE* ON THIS INTERESTING FELLOW
44

45
IF HE WERE TO MAKE *EVEN ONE MISTAKE*, HE'LL GO DOWN AS THE FIRST AND LAST "PRESIDENT OF JAPAN".
AND HE'LL *CERTAINLY* GO DOWN AS THE *UNLUCKIEST ONE*. LET'S SEE HOW HE DOES.

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
46
NEXT, A REPORT ON JAPAN'S FIRST ELECTION OF THE PRIME MINISTER BY POPULAR VOTE
OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF CHAIRMAN MAO
47

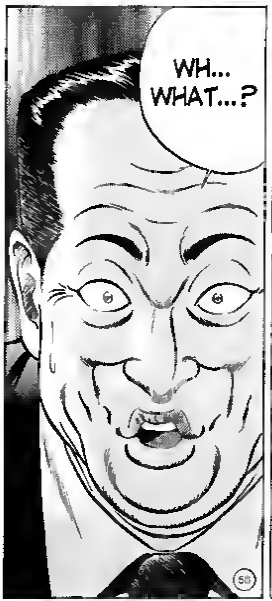
SAKURAGI KENICHIRO, 43 YEARS OLD
ALTHOUGH HE IS A DIET MEMBER WITHOUT ANY PARTY AFFILIATION, HE SEEMS TO BE THE LEADING CANDIDATE.
49

49
HE RETURNED TO JAPAN AT THE AGE OF 34 AND WENT INTO POLITICS THE FOLLOWING YEAR
AFTER GRADUATING FROM AN AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL IN JAPAN, HE WENT TO THE U.S., WHERE HE MAJORED IN STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY AFTER GRADUATION. HE WORKED FOR 10 YEARS AS A FINANCIAL REPORTER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST


JAPANESE LEADERS COME AND GO SO FREQUENTLY, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO IT IS
51
A MAN AMERICAN-IZED TO THE BONE... HUMPH!
AN OBVIOUS CHOICE FOR A COUNTRY LIKE JAPAN... COMPLETELY DEPENDENT ON AMERICA.
50
MR CHAIR-MAN ?
52

SIR! I HAVE AN URGENT REPORT!
WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS?
54

AS LONG AS HE DOES NOT DISRESPECT US.
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA CHAIRMAN : WONG LON MING
56


WH... WHAT...?
58

OUR INTELLI-GENCE REPORTS THAT...
...NORTH KOREA IS PREPARING TO INVADE SOUTH KOREA!
55

57

THE U.S. IS READYING ITS ENTIRE PACIFIC FLEET FOR A MOVE TO THE EAST CHINA SEA TO DISCOURAGE THIS ATTACK.
WHAT !?
56

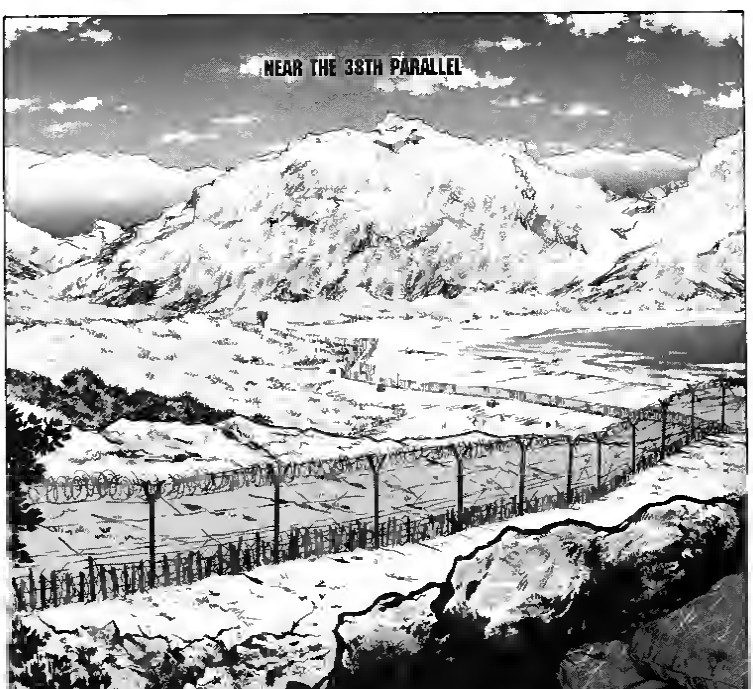
TAIWAN HISTORICALLY BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA!
61

MR. CHAIR-MAN!!
EXCELLENT, EXCELLENT.
59

COMRADES, THIS IS PRECISELY THE OPPORTUNITY WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ALL THESE YEARS!
60

INFORM OUR SECRET AGENTS IN TAIWAN AT ONCE! HAVE THEM PREPARE TO SABOTAGE CRITICAL ASSETS AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE!
THE MOMENT THAT WE HAVE CONFIRMATION THAT THE SITUATION IN KOREA IS DEADLOCKED, WE INVADE TAIWAN!
62

HOWEVER, THEY CANNOT INTERVENE IN TWO WARS IN THE SAME REGION SIMULTANEOUSLY.
THE U.S. ADMITTEDLY HAS VAST MILITARY RESOURCES
64
BUT, MR. CHAIRMAN, THE U.S. WILL NOT TOLERATE OUR INVASION OF TAIWAN!
63
YES, AND...!
FINALLY, TAIWAN WILL ONCE AGAIN BE OURS!
YES, MR. CHAIR-MAN!
65
THE NATION'S ECONOMY IS ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE. THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS AT 40%, AND RIOTS ARE BREAKING OUT! THE MILITARY SEES ME AS A FOOL SACRIFICING TAIWAN WILL BE A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR CONSOLIDATING MY POWER.
OUR POPULATION OF 1.2 BILLION HAS NEVER ACCEPTED THE NATIONALIST PARTY'S FALSE CLAIMS OF INDEPENDENCE
66


NEAR THE 38TH PARALLEL
57

ALL QUIET IN KUMANGSAN ...
KAESONG IS LOOKING QUIET, TOO.
58

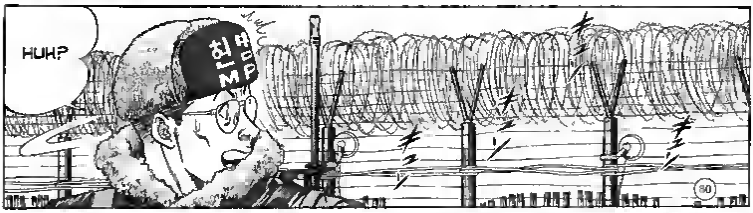
70
ALMOST TIME FOR MY RELIEF
SIGH
69
ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER SHIFT SAFELY COMPLETED... (YAWN)
71
73
HUH?
72

WHY ARE THE BIRDS SO SPOOKED TODAY?
74

HEY! REPORTING TO RELIEVE YOU.
75

HUH?
77

AAAGH
MP
MP
78
78


HUH?
MP
90

THAT'S AN
ARMORED
DIVISION!
81

THIS IS HEAD-QUARTERS
DO YOU COPY? DO YOU COPY!?
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON!?
B... BORDER PATROL TO HEADQUARTERS!!! WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY!! WE HAVE...
82
83
84
85
86

7TH FLEET COMMAND, REPORTING TO U.S. MILITARY HEADQUARTERS IN JAPAN AT 17:30 HOURS WE ARE PROGRESSING NORTHBOUND CURRENT POSITION IS LATITUDE 25 DEGREES NORTH, LONGITUDE 130 DEGREES EAST
WE ARE ABOUT TO ENTER THE EAST CHINA SEA.
87

ALTAVISION
Panasonic
BNN
STUDIO ALTA
JUST IN, WE HAVE THE FINAL RESULTS OF JAPAN'S FIRST PRIME MINISTERIAL ELECTION
ATMOSPHERE
88

ALTA VISION
SAKURAGI KENICHIRO HAS BEEN ELECTED PRIME MINISTER.
THE WINNER IS SAKURAGI KENICHIRO!
!?

50
CAN THIS YOUNG, UNPROVEN LEADER EFFECT CHANGE IN TODAY'S JAPAN?
MILD
DIGITAL
ALTA
STUDIO ALTA

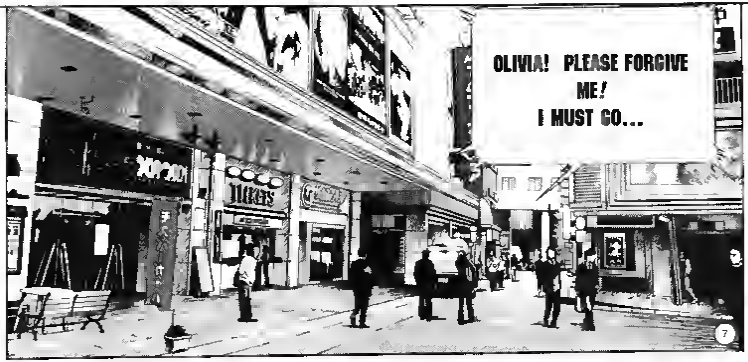
THE CONDITION FOR INDEPENDENCE
FROM AMERICA
THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF JAPAN
日本国初代大統領・桜木隆一郎

BNN
TO REPEAT, SAKURAGI KENICHIRO HAS BEEN ELECTED PRIME MINISTER!
THE FIRST PRIME MINISTER BY POPULAR VOTE HAS BEEN ELECTED!!
ELECTION NEWS FLASH : SAKURAGI KENICHIRO IS JAPAN'S NEW PRIME MINISTER
1

HURRAY FOR SAKURAGI KENICHIRO!
UH... WE'RE HERE IN FRONT OF THE JUBILANT CAMPAIGN OFFICE OF THE NEW PRIME MINISTER, SAKURAGI...
HURRAY! HURRAY!
BNN
3

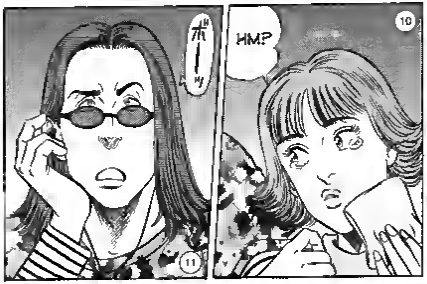
CHAPTER 2 : A TUMULTUOUS ELECTION DAY

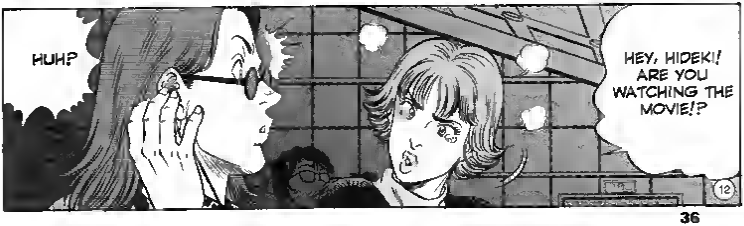
CHAPTER 2 :
A TUMULTUOUS
ELECTION DAY


OLIVIA! PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
I MUST GO...
7

POOR THING...
(SNIFFLE)
9

FRANK! PLEASE COME BACK!
8

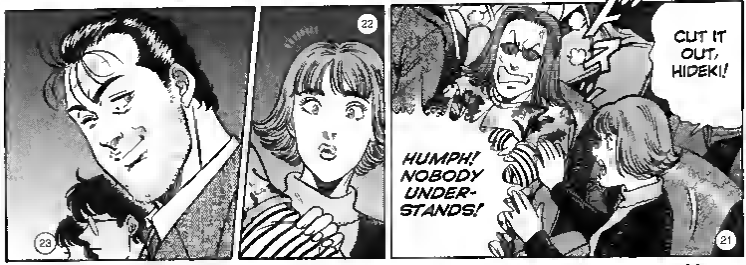

HM?
10
11


HUH?
HEY, HIDEKI! ARE YOU WATCHING THE MOVIE!?
12

I VOTED FOR SAKURAGI KENICHIRO, AND HE'S JUST BEEN ELECTED PRIME MINISTER!
IT'S SAKURAGI!
H... HE DID IT!!
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
CAN'T YOU JUST FOCUS ON THE MOVIE?
WHAT ARE YOU ON ABOUT? WE'RE IN A MOVIE THEATER!
SO WHAT!? IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO'S PRIME MINISTER! IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH US!
HUMPH
IT'S WAY MORE EXCITING THAN THIS MOVIE!
HEY, C'MON IT'S THE FIRST TIME A PRIME MINISTER'S BEEN ELECTED BY POPULAR VOTE!!
HUH?
SHHHH!
BUT THIS TIME, IT MATTERS!

WHEN YOU'RE IN A MOVIE THEATER, YOU SHOULD *QUIETLY* ENJOY THE MOVIE.
SHE'S RIGHT!!
19

SHHH! *BE QUIET!* THIS IS THE BEST PART OF THE MOVIE!
THE FUTURE OF JAPAN RESTS ON THIS ELECTION!
HEY, OLD MAN... *AT YOUR AGE, YOU SHOULD KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON!*
20


23
22
HUMPH! NOBODY UNDER-STANDS!
CUT IT OUT, HIDEKI!
21

The End
WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR NEXT VISIT
PLEASE NOTE THAT TICKETS ARE VALID FOR ONLY ONE SHOW
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
24
OF COURSE NOT! I JUST LOVE SOPHISTI-CATED MEN!
27
I'M FLATTERED! BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T MIND AN OLD MAN LIKE ME?
2
HEY, YOU'RE REALLY WITH IT!
HEY, NEXT TIME, WHY DON'T WE SEE A MOVIE TOGETHER?
25
HUMPH! I DIDN'T KNOW SANAE LIKED MIDDLE-AGED MEN!
28
WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?
OH!
HM?
WHAT ...?
29
30

THERE HE IS!
MHK
31
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING ILLEGAL!
W... WHAT'S GOING ON?
32
MR SAKURAGI! CONGRATULATIONS ON WINNING THE ELECTION!
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT BECOMING WHAT AMOUNTS TO BEING THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF JAPAN
33

WOAH, SLOW DOWN! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? MY NAME'S YAMAMOTO
PRESIDENT ?
34
WAIT A SEC.
35
THAT MEANS YOU'RE...!
B... BUT.... NO WAY!!
36
I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D FOLLOW ME HERE ..
(SIGH) DAMNED NOSY BASTARDS, EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM.
37
REALLY? THAT OLD MAN IS SAKURAGI?
WH.. WHAT'S HE DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!?
38

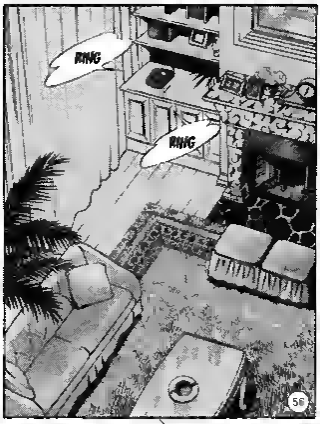
41
THANKS! I WON'T LET YOUR VOTE GO TO WASTE!
40
HUH?
TAP
39
IT COULD GET DANGEROUS IF WE ATTRACT MORE ATTENTION. WE SHOULD MOVE ON
ALRIGHT
42
COOL!
WOW
HA.. HA HA...
MR. SAKURAGI!!
MR. SAKURAGI, YOUR COMMENT, SIR!!
SHOVE
43
44

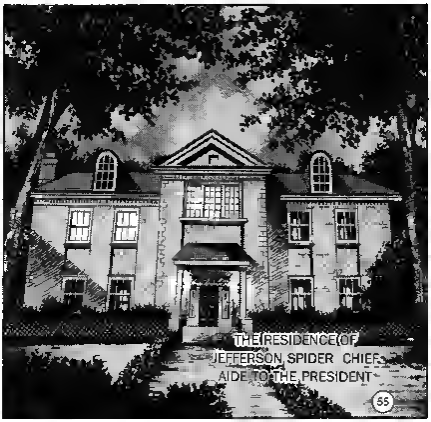
SO, TO THE CAMPAIGN OFFICE, MR. PRIME MINISTER?
46
... SEEMS LIKE IT
BIZ
THE CAMPAIGN OFFICE IS IN AN UPROAR. I SUGGEST WE HEAD THAT WAY IMMEDIATELY...
45
MY MISTAKE, SIR!
I'M NOT THE PRIME MINISTER YET. I HAVEN'T BEEN SWORN IN
47
ALL POLITICAL CALLS, SHOULD BE MADE FROM THE OFFICE, SIR...
WAIT, SIR! CAR PHONES AREN'T SECURE.
PI
PA
PO
DON'T WORRY.
51
CAN YOU MAKE INTERNATIONAL CALLS ON THIS?
49
カチャ
48
YES, SIR
50

I'M CALLING A FRIEND.
52

UNITED STATES OF
53

54


RING
RING
55


THE RESIDENCE OF JEFFERSON, SPIDER CHIEF AIDE TO THE PRESIDENT
55

AHHH. A BEAUTIFUL VOICE AS ALWAYS
KEN?
59

CLICK
57

HELLO?
58

DO YOU STILL LOOK LIKE THAT DYNAMITE HOME-COMING QUEEN..
...MY DEAR RACHEL?
HOW'S THE ELECTION GOING?
VERY FUNNY...
BUT YOU DIDN'T CALL FOR SMALL TALK, I ASSUME?
60
61
62
63

REMEMBER THAT JOKE I TOLD YOU 21 YEARS AGO?
WELL, IT SEEMS TO HAVE COME TRUE.
64
65

SO, RACHEL... I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW...
...BEFORE ANYONE ELSE.
66
SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED ONE BIT...
IS THIS THE WAY YOU FOOL WOMEN ...?
68
HEY, HEY...
69
57
JUST TEASING BUT, YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME BECAUSE I'M ABOUT TO GO TO BED
ANYWAY, TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
70
GOOD NIGHT...
MR. PRESIDENT!
71

74
SAKURAGI WAS JUST ELECTED PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN.
I'M HOME.
73
CLICK
72
...I... KNOW.
.....
75
WHAT'S WRONG ?
SHOULD WE BE HAPPY FOR HIM?
JEFF, SHOULD WE?
76
77

THE WORLD ORDER HAS CHANGED, BUT JAPAN HASN'T CHANGED WITH IT.
YES, JAPAN'S GOING THROUGH A CRISIS RIGHT NOW.
79

79
HE'LL DO OK

AND I'M SURE HE'LL BUTT HEADS WITH THE U.S. ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS.
HIS ENEMIES ARE NOT EXTERNAL — THEY'RE THE SELF-SERVING BUREAUCRATS AND POLITICAL FACTIONS WITHIN HIS *OWN GOVERNMENT*!
80

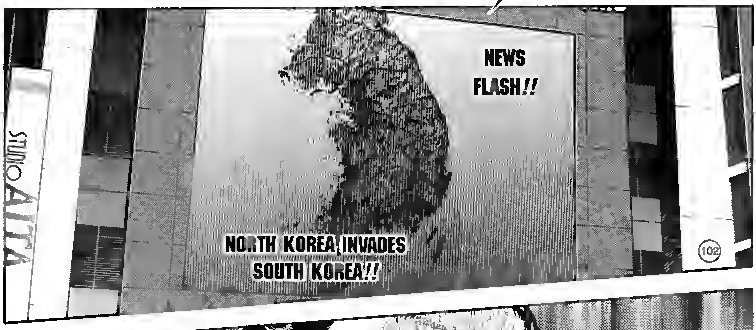
HE'LL MAKE JAPAN A TRULY INDEPENDENT NATION, ONE THAT'LL EXIST WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NEW WORLD ORDER. I THINK WE OWE IT TO HIM TO *BELIEVE IN HIM*.
BUT LIKE I SAID, I'M SURE HE'LL DO OK
81

SIR, WAS THAT MR. SPIDER?
84
CLICK
83
BEEPBEEP
82
IT MUST REMIND YOU OF OLD TIMES...
OH, COME ON. I'M STILL TOO YOUNG TO REMINISCE ABOUT THE PAST.
85
A PHONE CALL, SIR.
WHO IS IT?
86
ONE MOMENT, PLEASE!
88
YES?
87

HI, YOKO.
92
YOKO? UH-OH...
91
90
IT'S THE HOSTESS FROM CLUB "TATSUMI" IN GINZA
ふーん
I'M SORRY, BUT I'VE BEEN QUITE BUSY, YOU KNOW?
93
TSK, TSK, KEN! YOU'VE BEEN OUT OF TOUCH FOR TOO LONG.
WELL, MR. PRIME MINISTER?
SO DOES THIS MEAN YOU'RE GOING TO BE EVEN BUSIER?
94

HEY, HEY DON'T PICK ON ME SO MUCH
95
SILLY, I'M ONLY KID-DING!
BUT YOU'RE COMING TODAY, AREN'T YOU?
96
TO THE CLUB? OR...
...HERE, PERHAPS?
97
ASSERTIVE AS USUAL, HUH?
WELL, LET'S SEE...
HM?
98
M... MR SAKURAGI, LOOK!
99
HM?
100

101

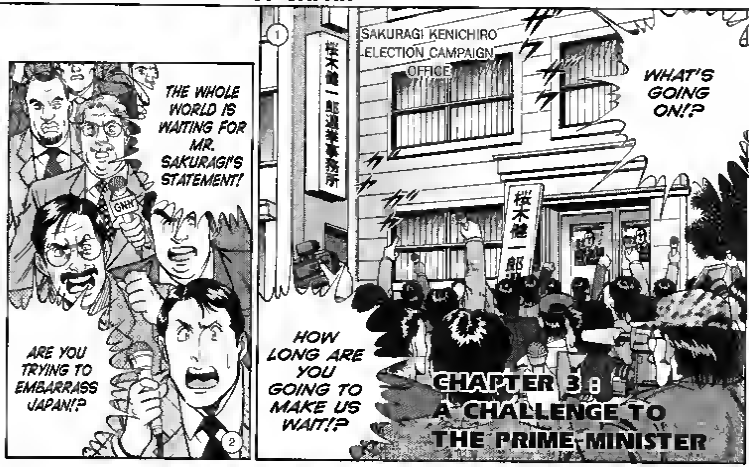

NEWS
FLASH!!
NORTH KOREA INVADES
SOUTH KOREA!!
STUDIO AITA
102

103

HELLO? KEN, ARE YOU STILL THERE?
104
SORRY, I WON'T BE BY FOR A WHILE... THAT'S RIGHT. . GOT TA GO...YOU, TOO...BYE
105
click
106
I'M AFRAID WE HAVE TO CHANGE OUR DESTINATION SOMETHING'S COME UP!
YES, SIR!
107
TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE!
108
YOU HAVE TAKEN ON A GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY AT A DIFFICULT TIME, SIR.
109
110

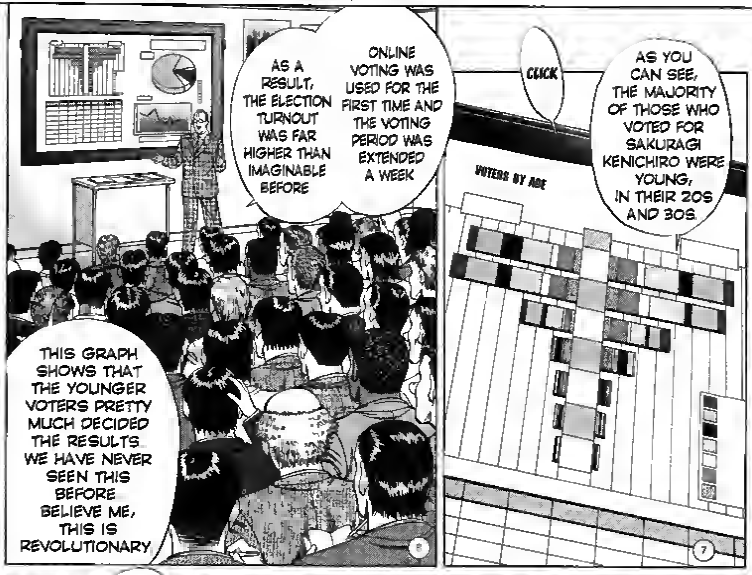
JAPAN WAS A BRITISH DEPENDENCY BEFORE THE WAR, AND AN AMERICAN ONE AFTER IT.
JAPAN MUST CHANGE!
HOWEVER, WITH THIS OPPORTUNITY, JAPAN MUST TAKE THE FIRST STEPS OF THE PAINFUL PROCESS TOWARD TRUE INDEPENDENCE!

THE CONDITION FOR INDEPENDENCE
FROM AMERICA
THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF JAPAN
日本国初代大統領・桜木健一郎


THE WHOLE WORLD IS WAITING FOR MR. SAKURAGI'S STATEMENT!
ARE YOU TRYING TO EMBARRASS JAPAN!?
SAKURAGI KENICHIRO ELECTION CAMPAIGN OFFICE
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE US WAIT!?
CHAPTER 3 : A CHALLENGE TO THE PRIME-MINISTER

MEANWHILE, I'LL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY OF YOUR QUESTIONS!
WOULD YOU KINDLY WAIT JUST A LITTLE LONGER ?
WE'RE TERRIBLY SORRY!
PLEASE, COME IN!
I'M MORRIS TANIGUCHI, HIS PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER.
WHO ARE YOU!?

CHAPTER 3 :
A CHALLENGE TO
THE PRIME MINISTER


ONLINE VOTING WAS USED FOR THE FIRST TIME AND THE VOTING PERIOD WAS EXTENDED A WEEK
AS A RESULT, THE ELECTION TURNOUT WAS FAR HIGHER THAN IMAGINABLE BEFORE
THIS GRAPH SHOWS THAT THE YOUNGER VOTERS PRETTY MUCH DECIDED THE RESULTS. WE HAVE NEVER SEEN THIS BEFORE. BELIEVE ME, THIS IS REVOLUTIONARY.
8
CLICK
AS YOU CAN SEE, THE MAJORITY OF THOSE WHO VOTED FOR SAKURAGI KENICHIRO WERE YOUNG, IN THEIR 20S AND 30S.
VOTERS BY AGE
7

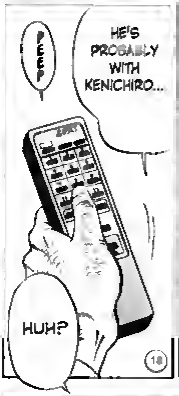
MORRIS IS *GOOD*.
AND THE LEADER OF THIS MOVEMENT IS *SAKURAGI KENICHIRO!!*
THE YOUNG VOTERS ARE GOING TO COMPLETELY *CHANGE THE FACE* OF JAPANESE POLITICS.
THE REPORTERS WERE READY TO RIOT, BUT HE'S GOT THEM EATING FROM HIS HAND.
10
9

SAKURAGI DIDN'T PULL MORRIS IN...
MORRIS WAS DRAWN TO HIM
12
IN ADDITION TO THIS ELECTION, MORRIS HAD A BIG ROLE IN THE LAST U.S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AND THE OLYMPICS
WELL, HE WAS THE HOTTEST PRODUCER IN THE LARGEST ADVERTISING AGENCY IN AMERICA
HE KNOWS HOW TO WORK A CROWD
SAKURAGI SURE PULLED IN A GREAT ADVISER!
11
SIR?
13

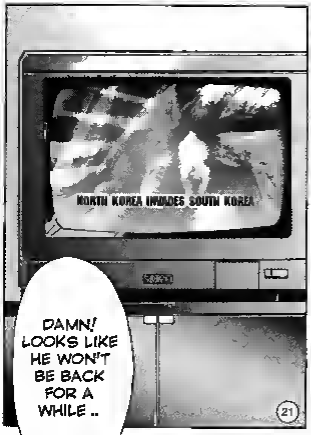
THE 1ST PRIME MINISTER BY POPULAR VOTE
第1回首相公選
KENICHIRO HAS MORE OF THAT THAN ANYTHING ELSE
"CHARISMA"
THAT'S CRUCIAL FOR A POLITICIAN.
HE'LL DEFINITELY BE THE ONE TO CHANGE JAPAN
15
SAKURAGI KENICHIRO'S REMIND-THE-SCENES ADVISER
NODA SEIJURO
14

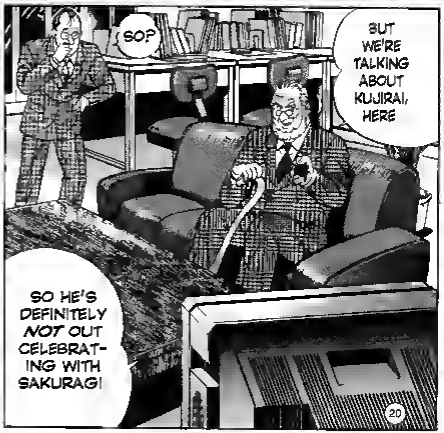
HUH? COME TO THINK OF IT, I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE NOON...
WHERE'S MR KUJIRAI?
17

I DON'T THINK I CAN KEEP THEM QUIET ANY LONGER!
CLICK
HEY! HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO GET A HOLD OF MR SAKURAGI?
S... SORRY. NOT YET.
11

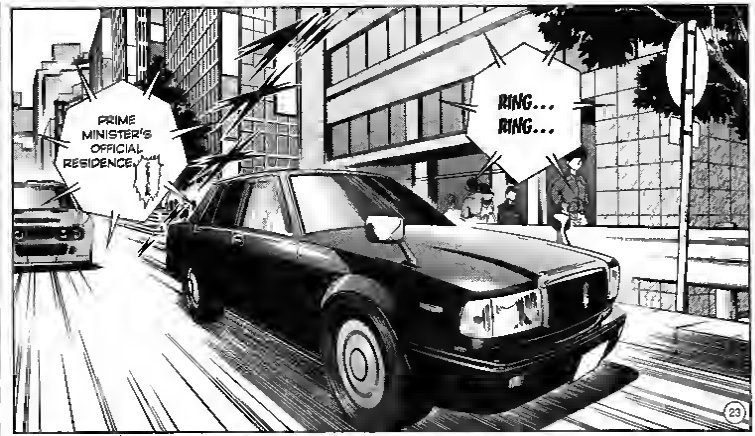

BEEP
HE'S PROBABLY WITH KENICHIRO...
HUH?
18

THAT'S STRANGE. AFTER ALL, HE RESIGNED HIS DIPLOMATIC POST TO HELP MR. SAKURAGI'S ELECTION BID.
HE'D BE ECSTATIC IF HE WERE HERE.
19


NORTH KOREA INVADES SOUTH KOREA
DAMN! LOOKS LIKE HE WON'T BE BACK FOR A WHILE ..
21


SO?
BUT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT KUJIRAI, HERE
SO HE'S DEFINITELY NOT OUT CELEBRATING WITH SAKURAGI
20

22


PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE
RING... RING...
23

OH, MR. SAKURAGI. THIS IS DEPUTY CABINET SECRETARY SAEGUSA. CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR VICTORY, SIR.
UNFORTUNATELY, THE PRIME MINISTER IS OUT HAVING A LUNCH MEETING. PERHAPS I CAN ARRANGE SOME OTHER TIME...
25
PLEASE INFORM PRIME MINISTER OHASHI.
THIS IS SAKURAGI! I AM ON MY WAY THERE, AND WILL ARRIVE IN ABOUT 20 MINUTES.
24

SO... TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE, SIR?
CHECK
27

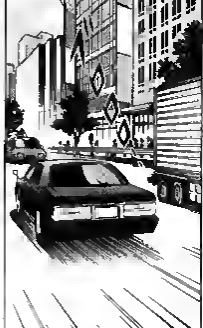
LET ME MAKE MYSELF CLEAR!!
SAKURAGI KENICHIRO WILL ARRIVE IN 20 MINUTES TO HAVE A MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER OHASHI!!
26

WHEN THE GULF WAR BROKE OUT ON JANUARY 17, 1991, THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT DIDN'T CONVENE AN EMERGENCY DIET SESSION. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY WERE DOING?
MOST OF THE DIET MEMBERS WERE IN THEIR CONSTITUENCIES, ATTENDING THEIR SUPPORTERS' NEW YEAR PARTIES!
30

LIKE CHICKENS, EH?
28

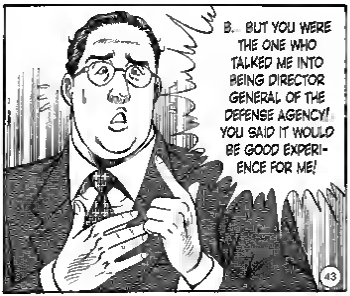
HE'S PROBABLY ASSEMBLED HIS CABINET MEMBERS, AND THEY'RE RUNNING AROUND LIKE CHICKENS WITH THEIR HEADS CUT OFF.
OUT HAVING A MEETING? SURE IT'S JUST AN EXCUSE TO AVOID SEEING ME
28

HUH?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE WORLD THINKS OF SUCH LEADERS OF JAPAN?
31


28

THEY THINK WE'RE *THIRD RATE HACKS!*
32
OUR PRESENT CABINET IS AN EXTRAORDINARY COLLECTION OF CLUELESS IDIOTS WHO HAVE NO IDEA OF POLITICS OR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AN AMATEUR CABINET OF CONCESSION HUNTERS CHOSEN ONLY BECAUSE OF THEIR FACTIONS
33
JAPAN HAS *NO FUTURE* IF THEIR INCOMPETENCE WERE TO BE REVEALED IN THIS TIME OF CRISIS.
THE TURMOIL FROM THE KOREAN PENINSULA WILL UNDOUBTEDLY SPILL OVER INTO JAPAN.
WE'VE GOT TO MOVE QUICKLY...! WE CANNOT LET JAPAN BECOME A BATTLE-FIELD!!
34
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, SIR?
I HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO DO ANYTHING YET.
THE FIRST THING IS TO *WAKE THEM UP!!*
35
36

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEFENSE AGENCY
MOCHIZUKI TAICHI

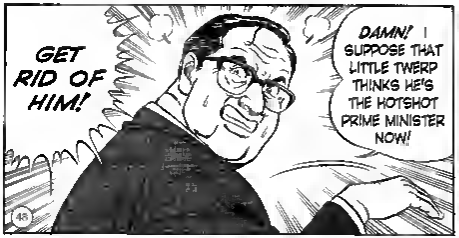

B. BUT YOU WERE THE ONE WHO TALKED ME INTO BEING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEFENSE AGENCY! YOU SAID IT WOULD BE GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR ME!
43

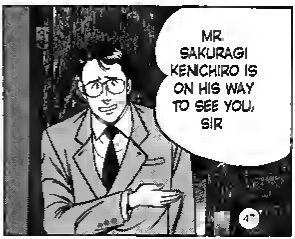
ドス…!
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO? YOU CAN BET THE OPPOSITION PARTY IS GOING TO HAVE A FIELD DAY POINTING OUT OUR BELATED RESPONSE
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, I'LL HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE!
42

I THINK WE SHOULD JUST PLAY IT SAFE. FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES OF THE U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY AND GO ALONG WITH THE UNITED STATES
WHAT'S DONE IS DONE. SO NOW, WE HAVE TO SHOW DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY THAT WE'RE TAKING STEPS TO DEAL WITH THIS OR WE'LL ALL LOSE FACE
NOW, NOW, BOTH OF YOU!
44

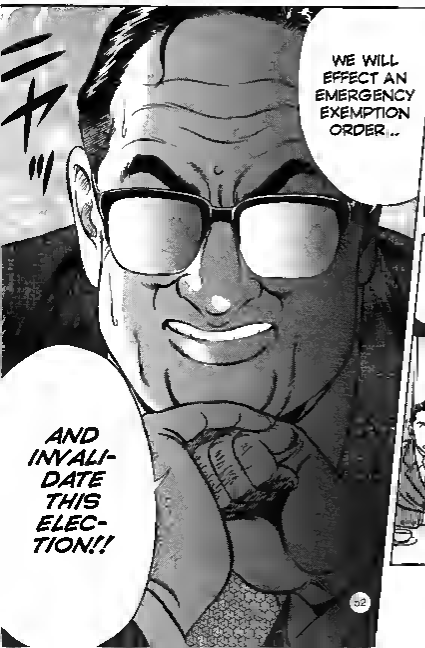
EXCUSE ME, SIR...
WE'RE BUSY! UNLESS IT'S IMPORTANT, COME BACK LATER!!
45

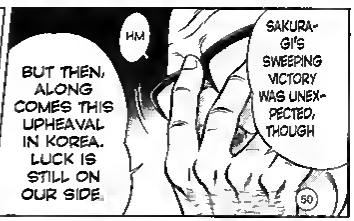
AFTER ALL, THIS IS WHY WE'VE KEPT THE U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY FOR ALL THESE YEARS!!
THAT'S RIGHT! AND WHY HASN'T THE U.S. CONTACTED US YET?
45

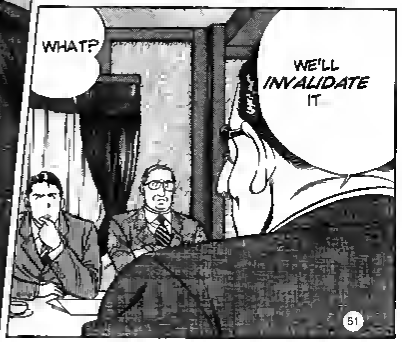

GET RID OF HIM!
DAMN! I SUPPOSE THAT LITTLE TWERP THINKS HE'S THE HOTSHOT PRIME MINISTER NOW!
48


MR. SAKURAGI KENICHIRO IS ON HIS WAY TO SEE YOU, SIR
47

HE'S NOTHING BUT WINDOW DRESSING!!
A PRIME MINISTER ELECTED BY POPULAR VOTE IS NOTHING MORE THAN A FIGUREHEAD
THAT UNGRATEFUL LAD HASN'T REALIZED THAT THE POPULAR ELECTION WAS SIMPLY AN OUTLET FOR THE PEOPLE'S FRUSTRATIONS OVER THE SLOW ECONOMIC RECOVERY.
49


WE WILL EFFECT AN EMERGENCY EXEMPTION ORDER..
AND INVALIDATE THIS ELECTION!!
52


HM
SAKURAGI'S SWEEPING VICTORY WAS UNEXPECTED, THOUGH
BUT THEN, ALONG COMES THIS UPHEAVAL IN KOREA. LUCK IS STILL ON OUR SIDE.
50


WHAT?
WE'LL INVALIDATE IT
51

WHA...?
54
BESIDES, SHOULDN'T WE BE DISCUSSING THE UPHEAVAL IN KOREA INSTEAD OF THIS?
BUT, SIR, WAIT A MINUTE! DOESN'T THAT GO AGAINST THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE?
DEFENSE AGENCY, DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE BUREAU AOKI KENICHIRO
53
DON'T REMIND HIM THAT HE WAS ANGRY WITH ME!
CAN IT! THE PRIME MINISTER'S FINALLY DISTRACTED
55
HUH?
56
TRUE, SAKURAGI POSES A THREAT TO THE FACTION POLITICS WE HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO MAINTAIN OVER THE YEARS...
BUT THE PUBLIC WON'T HAVE IT... OVERTURNING THE RESULTS OF AN ELECTION AT OUR OWN DISCRETION.
57
HE'S NOT INTIMIDATED BY THREATS, AND HE WON'T OBLIGE JUST BECAUSE WE OFFER HIM A CABINET POST OR TWO.
HE'LL NEVER AGREE TO THAT! THIS IS SAKURAGI "THE MAVERICK" WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
59
HOW ABOUT ... IF HE RESIGNS ?
59

...WE'LL DIG UP A GOOD JUICY STORY FOR THE MEDIA. A SCANDAL.
62
DURING THAT PERIOD...
#?!
61
FORTUNATELY, FOR THIS ELECTION A ONE-MONTH BRIEFING PERIOD HAS BEEN SPECIALLY ARRANGED TO PRECEDE THE PRIME MINISTER'S APPOINTMENT.
WE DON'T NEED SUCH A ROUND-ABOUT STRATEGY.
60

WE ARE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING!
66
WE PUT OUT THE BAIT, AND THE MEDIA IS HOOKED! HEH HEH HEH!
HEY, THAT'S GOOD HE'S THE MAN OF THE HOUR! THE MEDIA IS HUNGRY FOR STORIES ON HIM!
63
TH.. THANK YOU, SIR!
65
YOU JUST WON YOURSELF A POST IN MY NEXT CABINET.
YOU! WHAT A GREAT IDEA!
64

SAKURADAMON
WHAT ?
THERE!

MR. KUJIRAI.
THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON WHO'D HANDLE A CLASSIC PORSCHE THAT ROUGHLY.
WAIT! THAT WON'T BE NECES-SARY.
SECU-RITY! AN ASSAIL-ANT!
73
72
71

74

KEN... I KNEW YOU'D COME!
FORMER DIPLOMAT KUJIRAI YOSUKE
75

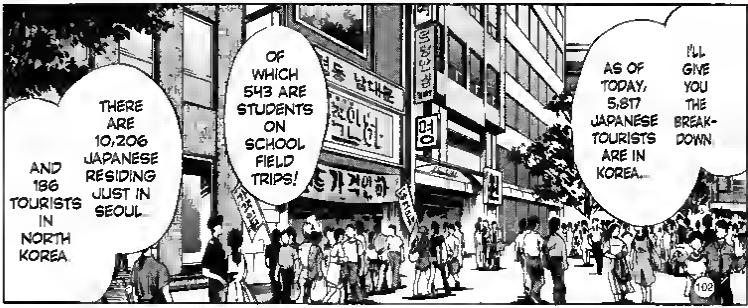
YOU'RE GOOD. YOU ANTICIPATE MY EVERY MOVE
76
THAT GOES FOR YOU, TOO. YOU KNEW THAT I'D BE HERE, RIGHT?
77
WELL . MAYBE
75
UM... I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK...
HOW DOES MR SAKURAGI KNOW MR. KUJIRAI?
HA, HA, HA IN A WORD, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT THEY'RE "FRIENDS"
79
FRIENDS!?
YES! MR. KUJIRAI TOLD ME THE STORY ONCE...

THEY MET AT THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN CHOFU
AMERICAN SCHOOL IN JAPAN
81
IN THOSE DAYS, MOST OF THE STUDENTS WEREN'T BORN AND RAISED IN JAPAN MOST WERE THE CHILDREN OF EXPATRIATES OTHERS WERE JAPANESE WHO WERE BORN OVERSEAS, LIKE MR KUJIRAI
82
84
NATURALLY, IT WAS DIFFICULT, GIVEN THE WIDE RANGE OF NATIONALITIES AND RESULTANT LANGUAGE BARRIERS
83
APPARENTLY, MR KUJIRAI WAS SO DEPRESSED WHEN HE RETURNED THAT THE SCHOOL AND HIS PARENTS WERE WORRIED ABOUT HIM
HEY, YOU!
85
86

SMACK
LET'S PLAY CATCH!
51
85
87
89
MOST OF THOSE KIDS WILL RETURN TO THEIR OLD SELVES.
HEY, WHERE'RE YOU THROWIN' THE BALL!?
OMF!
IN A STRANGE LAND, THERE'S NOTHING BETTER FOR A NEW CHILD THAN TO HAVE SOMEONE TO CALL A FRIEND.
90
92
HA HA HA!
BUT THERE WAS ONE TIME WHEN MR. KUJIRAI SAW THE USUALLY CHEERFUL YOUNG SAKURAGI CRYING.
C'MON, DON'T CRY, EDDIE!
NOOO! I DON'T WANT TO SAY GOODBYE TO KEN!!
WHEN THOSE CHILDREN HAD TO RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRIES, THEY WOULD BE VERY EMOTIONAL.
APPARENTLY, MR. SAKURAGI BECAME FRIENDS WITH MORE THAN A FEW OF THOSE TROUBLED CHILDREN.
WHEREVER WE GO, WE'LL STILL BE FRIENDS!!
91

YOSUKE .. HOW MANY MORE TIMES DO YOU THINK...
SOB
SOB
SOB
... I'LL HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE TO MY FRIENDS?
95
WHAT'S WRONG ?
95
KEN!
KEN!
93
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
94
KEN...
AND THIS IS WHEN MR KUJIRAI REALIZED . .
..."I AM GOING TO BE FRIENDS WITH THIS GUY FOR A LONG, LONG TIME"
37

YOU'LL BE GOING UP AGAINST A BUNCH OF OLD FOXES THAT ARE MASTERS AT PLAYING DIRTY
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO BE EASY TO BEAT WITHOUT LEVERAGE.
99
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS . YOU ACT BEFORE YOU THINK.
BUT YOU CAN'T DO THAT IN POLITICS.
98
YOU KNOW SOMETHING THAT I DON'T. SO, LET'S HEAR IT.
100
THERE'S AN EMERGENCY !
THE 8TH SPECIAL UNIT OF THE NORTH KOREAN MILITARY USED 26 TUNNELS THAT RUN UNDER THE 38TH PARALLEL LAUNCH TO AN ALL-OUT ATTACK
THE U S INITIATED AN EMERGENCY ORDER. BUT THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE SEOUL FALLS
101


I'LL GIVE YOU THE BREAK-DOWN.
AS OF TODAY, 5,817 JAPANESE TOURISTS ARE IN KOREA...
OF WHICH 543 ARE STUDENTS ON SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS!
THERE ARE 10,206 JAPANESE RESIDING JUST IN SEOUL...
AND 186 TOURISTS IN NORTH KOREA.
102

THOUGH THIS IS UNCONFIRMED, IT SEEMS THAT NEAR THE 38TH PARALLEL, 43 TOURISTS WERE KILLED.
ALL WERE SHOT DEAD!
103

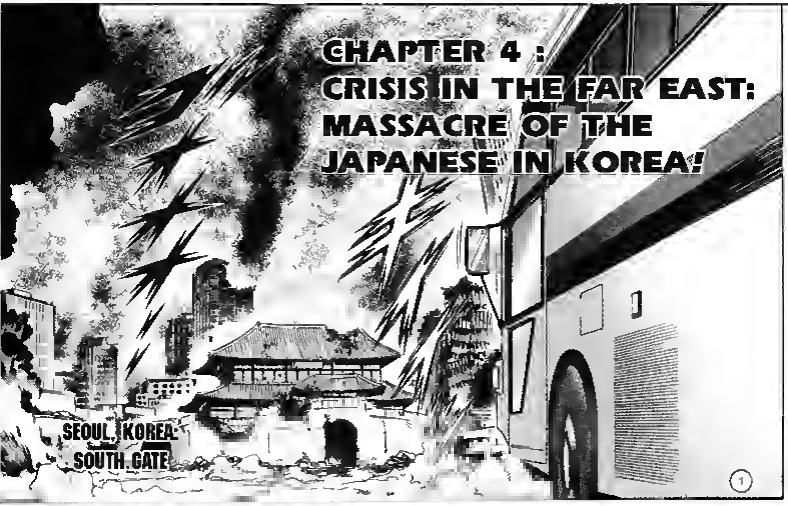
WHAT ...!?
PRIME MINISTER! WHAT IS JAPAN'S POSITION ON THE KOREAN UPHEAVAL?
WILL THERE BE A MOBILIZATION OF THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE BASED ON THE U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY?
105
AHH... WATCH OUT!!
HUH?
106
104

AA-HH!
YAIIII!
107
108
IT'S HIM!
111
IT'S SAKURAGI!
110
109

OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN, CRYING FOR HELP FROM THE DEPTHS OF HELL!
I CAN HEAR THEM, SAKURAGI.
112

YEAH... I CAN HEAR THEM, TOO!
113

THE CONDITION FOR INDEPENDENCE
FROM AMERICA
THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF JAPAN
日本国初代大統領・桜木健一郎

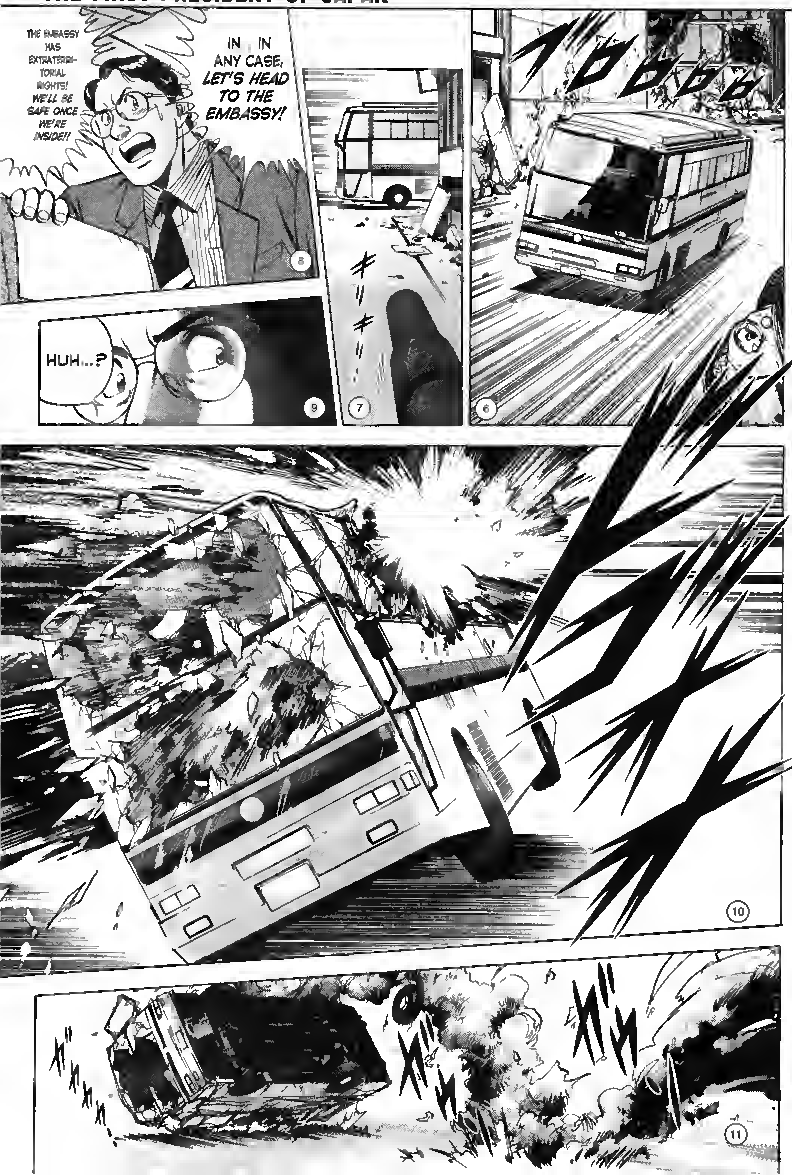

CHAPTER 4 :
CRISIS IN THE FAR EAST:
MASSACRE OF THE
JAPANESE IN KOREA!
SEOUL, KOREA.
SOUTH GATE
1

HOW TERRIBLE!
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
2

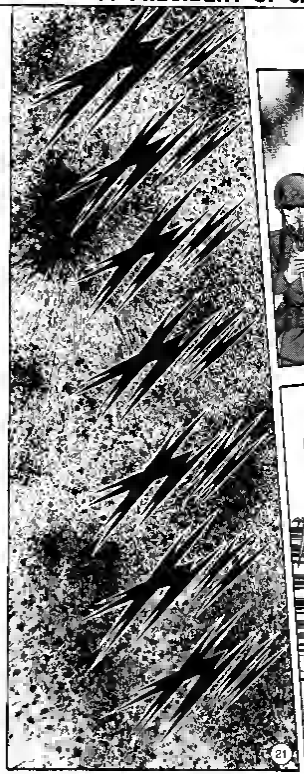
MOMMY, I'M SCARED!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING ON OUR HONEYMOON!
4

HEY GUIDE, WHAT'S GOING ON?
I... I HAVE NO IDEA ..
3

CHAPTER 4 :
CRISIS IN THE FAR EAST:
MASSACRE OF THE
JAPANESE IN KOREA!


THE EMBASSY HAS EXTRATERRITORIAL RIGHTS! WE'LL BE SAFE ONCE WE'RE INSIDE!!
IN ANY CASE, LET'S HEAD TO THE EMBASSY!
HUH...?
8
9
7
6
10
11

ARR-RGH!
12
OHHH...
ARE... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, KUMIKO !?
UGH...!
13
ゴロ
14
THEY SHOT THEM!
AAIIII-IEEEE!
15
OW...!
17
GET OUT OF HERE!
RUN!
16

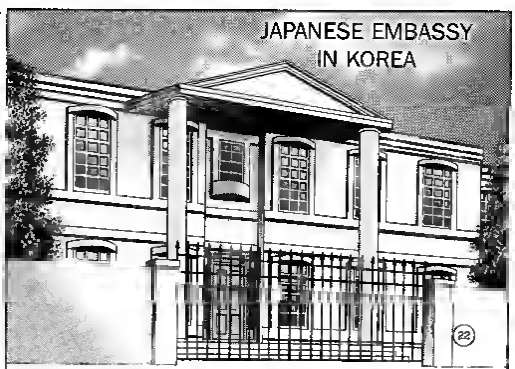


19

TA-
TSUYA,
HONEY!
SON!
18

WE HAVE
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH..
STOP!!
WE
ARE
JAPAN-
ESE!!
20

HELLO
!?
CLICK,
CLICK
HELLO,
HELLO
!?
23


JAPANESE EMBASSY
IN KOREA
22

STOP PANICKING. IT'S DISGRACEFUL
WH... WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, AMBASSADOR!?
25
WE CAN'T CONTACT JAPAN!
OUR EMERGENCY LINE HAS BEEN CUT, TOO!
24
OUR ONLY HOPE IS THE UNITED STATES!
WE WILL WAIT FOR THE AMERICAN TROOPS IN KOREA TO RESCUE US!
EVEN IF WE WERE ABLE TO CONTACT JAPAN, UNDER THE PRESENT CONSTITUTION, THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE CANNOT BE DISPATCHED. . EVEN TO RESCUE OUR OWN PEOPLE .
JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO KOREA AKAI YOSHIKAZU
26
HUH ?
29
DAMN, HAVE THEY COME THIS FAR?
28
AH!!
27
WHAT ?
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THIS! THEY'RE JAPANESE!
30

SIR?
DO NOT OPEN THE GATES.
32
WE'RE JAPANESE !!
HURRY, OPEN THE GATES AND LET US IN!!
31
THERE ARE AT LEAST 50,000 NORTH KOREAN SECRET AGENTS OPERATING UNDER COVER IN SOUTH KOREA
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE THAT SOME ARE IN THAT CROWD, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THIS CONFUSION
33
IF THEY WANT TO COME IN, HAVE THEM SHOW THEIR PASSPORTS
WE HAVE CERTAIN RULES THAT MUST BE FOLLOWED, YOU KNOW.
34
PLEASE HELP US!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING !?
35

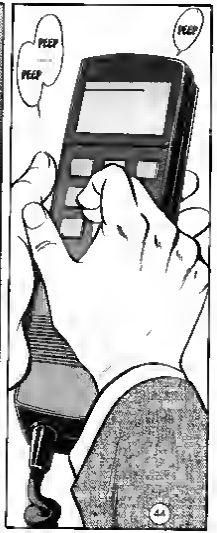
PRIME MINISTER S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE
ROLL THE CAMERA!
36
WE'RE AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE!
MR SAKURAGI KENICHIRO, THE PRIME MINISTER-ELECT, HAS SUDDENLY ARRIVED!
37
I'VE COME TO SEE PRIME MINISTER OHASHI!
CAN YOU LET US THROUGH ?
38
WE MUST ASK YOU TO LEAVE
WE ARE SORRY, SIR, BUT WE'VE RECEIVED ORDERS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER NOT TO LET ANYONE THROUGH
39
WE DON'T HAVE TIME!! MOVE!!
40

HM
42

THERE'S NO USE ARGUING WITH THEM.
B.. BUT, SAKURAGI ....
41

HEY, SAKURAGI !!
EH?..
43

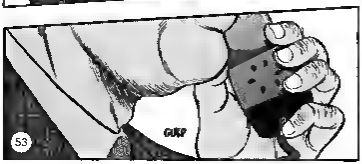
TIME TO SHOCK THOSE LAZY BASTARDS AWAKE
45


PEEP
PEEP
PEEP
44

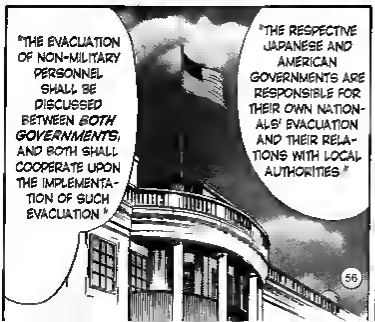
CLICK
RING
RING
47
46
48
WELL, WELL, MR OHASHI! THAT'S QUITE AN HONOR.
H... HELLO, MR PRESIDENT.
I'M ALWAYS IMPRESSED WITH THE PROMPT EFFICIENCY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS SUCH AS THIS! HA... HA HA HA...
50
45

I SHALL GET RIGHT TO THE POINT, THEN.
OH... OF COURSE.
52

BUT YOU'RE NOT ON THE HOTLINE FOR SMALL TALK
PLEASE, GET TO THE POINT.
51


GRIP
53

W.. WE URGENTLY REQUEST THE AMERICAN MILITARY TO RESCUE THE JAPANESE IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA
54


"THE EVACUATION OF NON-MILITARY PERSONNEL SHALL BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN BOTH GOVERNMENTS, AND BOTH SHALL COOPERATE UPON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH EVACUATION."
"THE RESPECTIVE JAPANESE AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN NATIONALS' EVACUATION AND THEIR RELATIONS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES."
56

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE ADDITIONAL CLAUSES IN THE NEW GUIDELINES?
STOP RIGHT THERE, MR OHASHI.
55

W.. WELL, I UNDER-STAND, BUT...
58
OUR ASSETS IN KOREA ARE ALSO IN EXTREME JEOPARDY
IN OTHER WORDS, WE CAN DISCUSS THIS, BUT I CAN TELL YOU RIGHT NOW THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR OUR FORCES TO SAVE YOUR PEOPLE.
57
AN EMERGENCY ACT!?
60
I CAN'T DO THAT! SUCH A CRITICAL DECISION WILL ENRAGE THE ENTIRE ELECTORATE!
MY POLITICAL CAREER WILL BE FINISHED !!
61
59
AND LET ME REMIND YOU THAT WE HAVE THAT SECRET TREATY BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES!!
THIS IS A STATE OF EMERGENCY.
CALL AN EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION, PROPOSE AN EMERGENCY ACT, PASS THE BILL, AND DISPATCH YOUR SELF-DEFENSE FORCE!

WE THINK WE CAN ARRANGE FOR AN EVEN LARGER AMOUNT
THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTED 13 BILLION DOLLARS FOR THE GULF WAR IN 1991.
63

LOOK, MR. CARRADINE ISN'T THERE ANOTHER WAY?
JAPAN IS WILLING TO SHARE THE COST OF MILITARY CONTAINMENT OF THIS FAR EAST CRISIS.
62

66
EXCUSE ME?

64
SMARTEN UP!

65
WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE! WHY DOES JAPAN ALWAYS TRY TO BUY ITS WAY OUT?!?
AND THIS CRISIS IS NOT GOING TO STOP AT THE KOREAN PENINSULA!

WE ARE ALSO FACING A WAR BETWEEN CHINA AND TAIWAN!
THEREFORE, IN ADDITION TO THIS UPHEAVAL IN KOREA...
LISTEN TO ME VERY CAREFULLY, MR. OHASHI!
OUR MILITARY INTELLIGENCE LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT CHINA IS PREPARING FOR WAR.
67
68
WHAT!?
69
PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF OUR OWN COUNTRYMEN, LET ALONE THE LIVES OF THE JAPANESE
...OUR MILITARY FORCES WILL BE FULLY OCCUPIED, DEALING SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH TWO WARS.
UNFORTUNATELY, IF THIS BECOMES A REALITY,
70

... THEN THE ONLY WAY TO RESCUE THE JAPANESE IS TO DISPATCH OUR SELF-DEFENSE FORCE...
73
WHAT SECURITY TREATY? WHAT GUIDELINES? THEY'RE ALL LIES!
THEY'RE UNFAIR. BENEFITING ONLY THE U.S DURING TIMES OF PEACE
72
AH...
MR PRIME MINISTER ?
71
IF WE DO THAT, THE ENTIRE CABINET MAY BE FORCED TO RESIGN. MOREOVER, IT MAY MEAN THE END OF OUR LIBERAL CONSTITUTION PARTY!
D.. DON'T BE STUPID!
74
IT MEANS THAT WE ARE GOING TO SIT BACK AND LET OUR PEOPLE IN KOREA DIE!!
B... BUT IF THE AMERICAN MILITARY WON'T RESCUE THEM, AND WE DON'T DISPATCH OUR SELF-DEFENSE FORCE.
75
TH... THERE... IS NOTHING... WE CAN DO...
UNDER .. OUR PRESENT... CONSTITU-TION
76

HUH!?
78
WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION OUTSIDE?
77
THAT LITTLE TWERP PLANS TO MAKE THIS INTO A BIGGER FUSS!
PRIME MINISTER, LEAVE THIS TO ME.
80
HE'S STILL HERE!?
S... SAKURAGI!!!
79
81
I'LL PUT HIM IN HIS PLACE.
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE LIBERAL CONSTITUTION PARTY SAHMMURA TETSUZO

WELL, WELL, SAKURAGI!
YOU'RE GIVING THE MEDIA YOUR GENERAL POLICY SPEECH ALREADY? HA HA HA.
83

SECRETARY GENERAL SAWAMURA'S COMING!
IT'S THE SECRETARY GENERAL!
82

THE PRIME MINISTER REFUSES TO SEE YOU
NOW, TAKE YOUR ENTOURAGE WITH YOU AND LEAVE
86

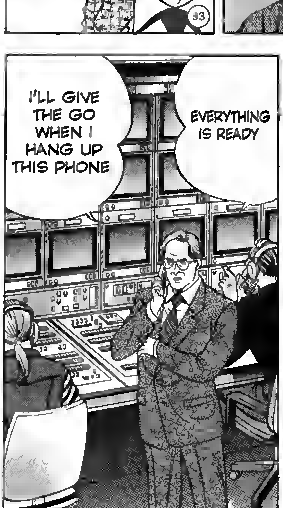
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOUR JOKES
I CAME TO SEE PRIME MINISTER OHASHI, NOT YOU
84
85

CERTAIN TRADITIONS IN THE LIBERAL CONSTITUTION PARTY THAT TOOK US YEARS TO BUILD DON'T APPROVE OF YOU!
THE PRESENT CABINET DOESN'T ACCEPT YOU, SAKURAGI.
87

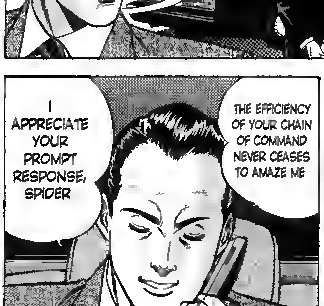
UGH...
64
I AM THE "REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE", AS CHOSEN BY THE GENERAL ELECTORATE OF JAPAN!
HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY SAY THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ACCEPT THIS!?
30
WOW!!
68
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH?
YOU DON'T BELONG TO ANY PARTY. YOU DON'T BELONG TO ANY FACTION. YOU'RE NOBODY!
31

IS IT THAT BAD IN KOREA?
CRIES... OF HELP?
GRRR...
93

HOWEVER, I CANNOT SIT BACK AND IGNORE THE CRIES OF HELP FROM OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN!
NOTHING —AS OF YET.
92

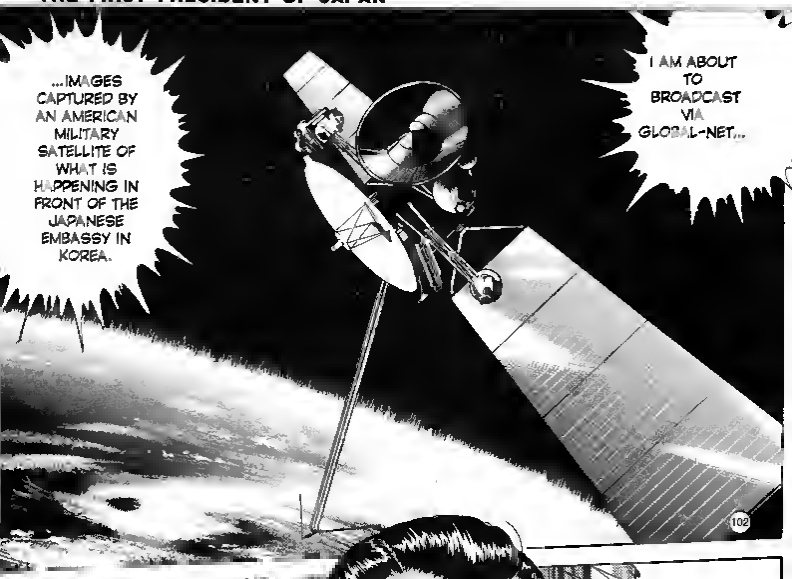

I'LL GIVE THE GO WHEN I HANG UP THIS PHONE
EVERYTHING IS READY
97

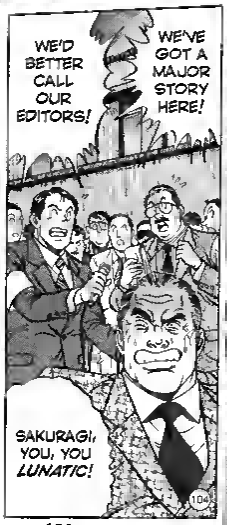
MR SAKURAGI! YOU HAVE A CALL
94


I APPRECIATE YOUR PROMPT RESPONSE, SPIDER
THE EFFICIENCY OF YOUR CHAIN OF COMMAND NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME
96

95

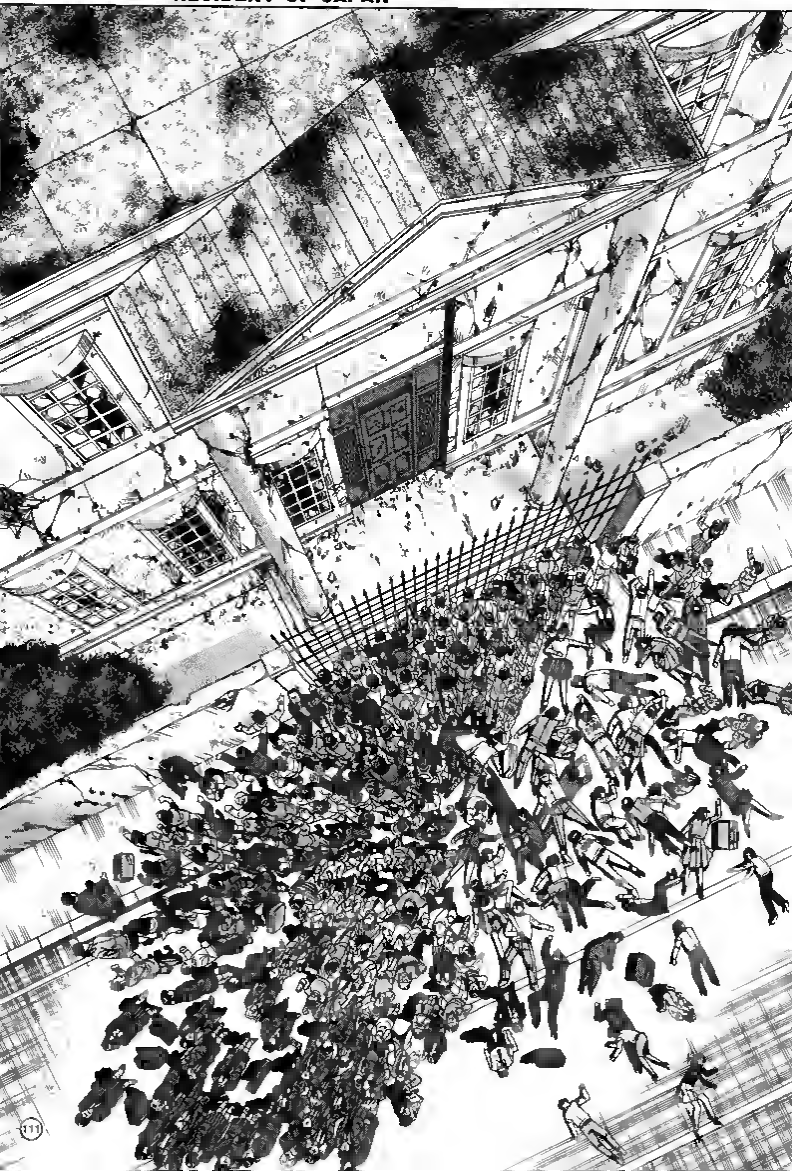
THANKS ANYWAY.
99
YOU DON'T NEED TO THANK ME!
KEN, THIS IS FROM ME—NO, MAKE THAT FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR ELECTION
98
SAKURAGI, IF YOU THINK YOU CAN DO THIS TO ME AND GET AWAY WITH...
100
PRIME MINISTER OHASHI AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET!
ALL CITIZENS OF JAPAN!!
101


...IMAGES CAPTURED BY AN AMERICAN MILITARY SATELLITE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN FRONT OF THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN KOREA.
I AM ABOUT TO BROADCAST VIA GLOBAL-NET...
102


WE'D BETTER CALL OUR EDITORS!
WE'VE GOT A MAJOR STORY HERE!
SAKURAGI, YOU, YOU *LUNATIC!*
104

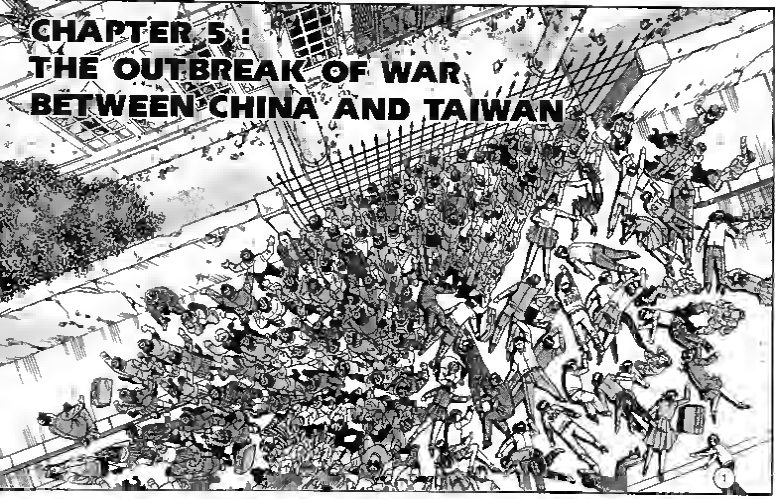
I WANT YOU TO SEE WITH YOUR OWN EYES AND THINK ABOUT WHAT IS REALLY HAPPENING!
103

HUH?
106
OH...
ALTA
英会話
NOVA
105
THE EMBA-SSY!
109
WHA...
107
NO!!
108
110
IT'S DOING NOTHING!

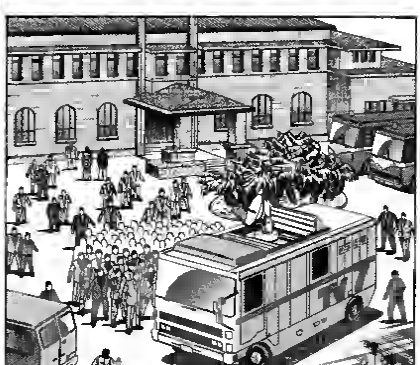


THE CONDITION FOR INDEPENDENCE FROM AMERICA
THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF JAPAN
日本国初代大統領・桜木隆一誕

CHAPTER 5 : THE OUTBREAK OF WAR BETWEEN CHINA AND TAIWAN



CHAPTER 5 : THE OUTBREAK OF WAR BETWEEN CHINA AND TAIWAN ⑤


TV

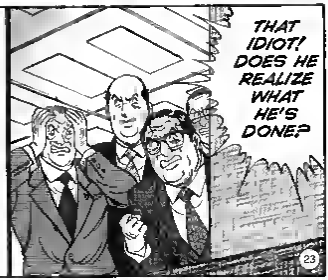
IT'S FAR WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT
THIS.. CAN'T BE HAP-PENING

LOOKS LIKE THERE WASN'T A SINGLE *REAL REPORTER* IN THAT SORRY LOT
HUMPH!

I DOUBT THAT ANYBODY HERE IS LEVELHEADED ENOUGH TO ASK YOU QUESTIONS.
11
ALL THEY CAN DO IS CALL AND ASK THEIR SUPERVISORS WHAT TO DO NEXT.
NONE OF THEM CAN THINK STRAIGHT
HEY, SAKURAGI! WHERE DO THINK YOU'RE GOING?
14
WE'VE MADE OUR POINT.
LET'S GO, KUJIRA!
12
UH-HUH.
13
THAT WAS JUST OUTRAGEOUS AND RECKLESS SHOWMANSHIP! ALL IT'S GOING TO DO IS *PANIC* THE ENTIRE NATION!
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE!?
15
16

A QUESTION FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL, THEN
DO YOU SUGGEST WE CENSOR INFORMATION AND HIDE THE ACTUAL HORRORS?
GRRR..
17
18
A LONE AMERICAN REPORTER BROKE THE NEWS ABOUT THE START OF THE GULF WAR IN '91
BUT HE WASN'T CRITICIZED FOR HIS ACTIONS.
I, FOR ONE RESPECT HIM
19
IT IS *MY DUTY* TO REPORT THE TRUTH OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN KOREA
THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE NEED TO FACE UP TO THIS REALITY!
GRRR...
20
21

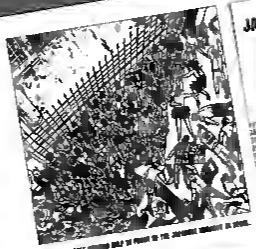
SOON, ALL OF JAPAN WILL BE IN A STATE OF PANIC!


THAT IDIOT! DOES HE REALIZE WHAT HE'S DONE?

THE FOLLOWING DAY

CHAOS! JAPANESE WIPED OUT?

RESCUE IMPOSSIBLE?



JAPANESE EMBROILED IN KOREAN UPHEAVAL DESPAIR! JAPANESE ANNIHILATED!?

25

YOU HAVE TO GET HIM OUT OF THERE IMMEDIATELY!!

MY SON'S IN KOREA!

27

PLEASE! PLEASE HELP MY HUSBAND!!

28

PLEASE, FOR YOUR SAFETY, STAND BACK!!

PLEASE, STAND BACK!!

26

ゴクッ

ゴクッ

30

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE

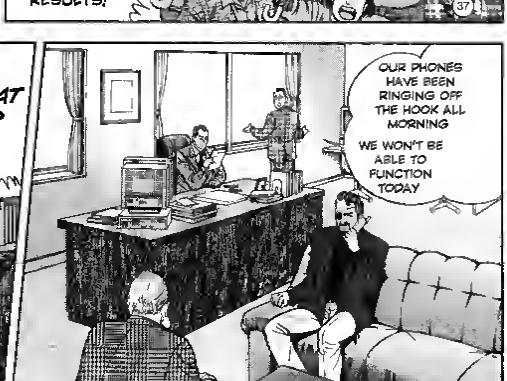
29

PRIME MINISTER!! DOES THE GOVERNMENT HAVE A RESCUE PLAN?
HOW MUCH HELP CAN WE EXPECT UNDER THE U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY!?
31
W... WE ARE URGENTLY DISCUSSING THIS MATTER AND...
32
ARE YOU GOING TO DISPATCH THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE?
WHAT ABOUT RESCUE MEASURES BY THE AMERICAN MILITARY?
IS THE GOVERNMENT GOING TO SIT BACK AND WATCH ITS PEOPLE DIE!?
"URGENTLY"!? PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY BEEN KILLED!
33
OFFICES OF SAKURAGI KENICHIRO
桜木健一郎事務所
COME OUT, SAKURAGI!!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
36
W... WELL... WE ARE DISCUSSING THOSE MATTERS AS WELL AND...
P... PLEASE GIVE US A LITTLE MORE TIME...
34
I WILL NEVER FORGET THIS, SAKURAGI!
I WILL SEE TO IT THAT YOU ARE DESTROYED!
35

I... I DIDN'T EXPECT SUCH AN INTENSE REACTION...
38

YOU'RE NOT THE PRIME MINISTER YET! CUT THE GRAND-STANDING!
WHY THE SHOCKING PICTURES? WHY CAUSE PANIC? YOU KNOW WE'RE DEFENSE-LESS
NO DICTATOR FOR PRIME MINISTER! REVOKE THE ELECTION RESULTS!
37

WHAT!?
ALL RIGHT! CALL ME WHEN YOU HAVE MORE NEWS!!
42

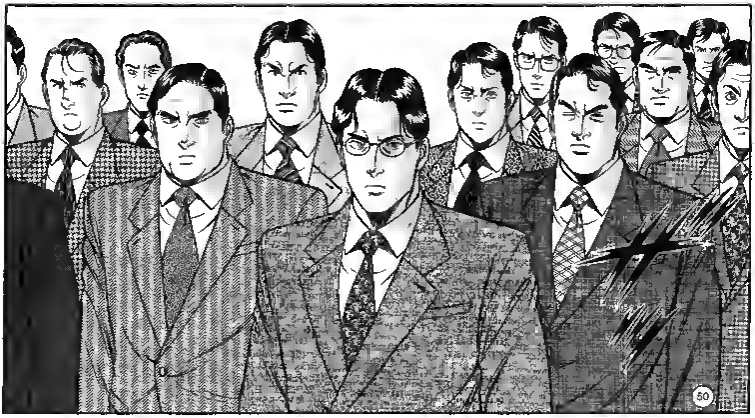

OUR PHONES HAVE BEEN RINGING OFF THE HOOK ALL MORNING
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO FUNCTION TODAY
39

41

A TAD PROVOCATIVE FOR THE PUBLIC WE'VE BECOME TOO ACCUSTOMED TO PEACE.
40

CARRIER GROUPS, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE INDEPENDENCE, NIMITZ, KITTY HAWK AND CARL VINSON, ARE EXPECTED TO MOBILIZE.
THE U.S. HAS ALREADY SENT ITS 3RD, 5TH, AND 7TH FLEETS INTO THE EAST CHINA SEA!!
U.S FORCES
CHINESE FORCES
44
SAKURAGI, WE HAVE CONFIRMATION!
SEVERAL CHINESE SUBS AND FRIGATES HAVE BEEN ASSEMBLED IN THE TAIWAN STRAIT.
43
JAPAN'S POSITION WILL BE CRUCIAL. OUR LOCATION MAKES US A PERFECT BASE TO DEAL WITH JUST THESE SORTS OF CRISES
FOR BOTH THE U.S. AND CHINA...
SO WE HAVE THE THREAT OF A CHINA-TAIWAN WAR IN ADDITION TO THE UPHEAVAL IN KOREA
45
WE'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK AHEAD!
47
OUR PRESENT CABINET IS *INCAPABLE* OF DEALING WITH THIS
46

H... HEY! PLEASE WAIT!!
YOU CAN'T COME IN WITHOUT AN APPOINT-MENT!!
KLAK
49
48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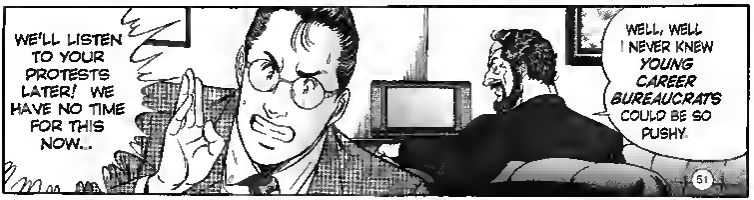

WE'LL LISTEN TO YOUR PROTESTS LATER! WE HAVE NO TIME FOR THIS NOW...
WELL, WELL I NEVER KNEW YOUNG CAREER BUREAUCRATS COULD BE SO PUSHY.
51

WE HAVE COME TO APOLOGIZE FOR THE PRESENT CABINET'S INSOLENT BEHAVIOR!
WE ARE 20 PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO FEEL THAT OUR PRESENT GOVERNMENT NO LONGER SERVES ITS PEOPLE.
HUH !?
53
52
WELL, WELL
WHAT ...?
54
WITH ME?
AND WE HAVE COME TO PLEDGE THAT WE WILL WORK WITH YOU TO CREATE A NEW JAPAN!
56
55

EVEN NOW, OUR PRESENT LEADERS ARE ONLY CONCERNED WITH PROTECTING THEMSELVES AND THEIR PRIVILEGES
WE CAN NO LONGER FOLLOW SUCH A CABINET OR GOVERNMENT
57

MR. SAKURAGI, YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN BY THE PEOPLE. THEREFORE, IT IS ALSO OUR DUTY TO SERVE YOU!
IT IS OUR *SWORN DUTY* TO WORK FOR THE WELL BEING OF THE PEOPLE WE SERVE!
58

WE WANT TO SERVE OUR NATION'S FUTURE
61

FINE SPEECH, BUT ANYONE CAN TALK
YOU SURE YOU WANT TO RISK YOUR CAREERS?
60

UNLESS THE OLD GUARD IS SWEPT *COMPLETELY* OUT OF POWER, THIS COUNTRY HAS *NO FUTURE!*
YOU HAVE BROKEN THE MOLD! WE WISH TO PIN OUR HOPES ON YOU!
59

BUT WE ARE PREPARED TO GIVE OUR LIVES..
TO FIGHT THIS BATTLE WITH YOU!!
THE BATTLE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT MAY BE TOUGHER THAN OVERCOMING THE CRISIS IN ASIA...
62
SO, HELP ME WHEN I DO.
ALRIGHT. I'LL NEED YOUR HELP EVENTUALLY.
63
65
HUH ?
64
YES, MR. SAKURAGI! IT'LL BE AN HONOR!
66

SEEMS LIKE THE DIE IS CAST.
70
IT'S ME...
68
RING
67
WHAT !?
69
WAR HAS BROKEN OUT BETWEEN CHINA AND TAIWAN!
71
M-11 MISSILES TARGETING TAIWAN HAVE BEEN FIRED FROM MOBILE LAUNCH PADS IN FUJIAN AND GUANGDONG!!
72

PRIME MINISTER S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE
73
JUST IN, CHAIRMAN WONG'S OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE CHINA-TAIWAN WAR.
HERE ARE EXCERPTS
74
WE'VE CONFIRMED THAT, AT 5:47 THIS MORNING, FOUR OF OUR PATROL BOATS CAME UNDER FIRE FROM BATTERIES ALONG TAIWAN'S COAST.
75
THIS CIVIL WAR IS DEPLORABLE, AND WE HOPE FOR A QUICK RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, CHINA CANNOT BE REUNITED WITHOUT SOME SACRIFICE.
WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO RETURN FIRE. CHINA IS CURRENTLY EXCHANGING FIRE WITH TAIWAN OVER THE TAIWAN STRAIT.
76
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
WH... WHAT IS GOING ON? OUR OPTION FOR A U.S. MILITARY RESCUE OF JAPANESE IS NOW COMPLETELY GONE.
77
78

DUE TO OUR PRESENT SITUATION, I'LL MAKE THIS BRIEF.
OUR NATION IS CONCERNED THAT THE ASSEMBLY IN ASIA OF A MILLION AMERICAN MILITARY TROOPS FOR THESE TWO DISPUTES COULD LEAD TO A MASSIVE WAR.
81

80
CH... CHAIRMAN WONG!?
HELLO ..?
YES?
79

IN THIS LIGHT, WE REQUEST THAT YOU REFRAIN FROM PERMITTING THE U.S. TO USE JAPANESE MILITARY BASES, AND FROM DISPATCHING YOUR SELF-DEFENSE FORCE.
82

IF NECESSARY, WE ARE PREPARED TO REDUCE YOUR NATION TO ASHES.
I SEE. I MUST INFORM YOU THAT WE ARE QUITE DETERMINED.
SNAP
84

I CANNOT DECIDE SUCH A MATTER AT MY DISCRETION.
BUT JAPAN AND THE U.S. HAVE A MUTUAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT, WHICH IS BASED ON THE GUIDELINES FOR.
83

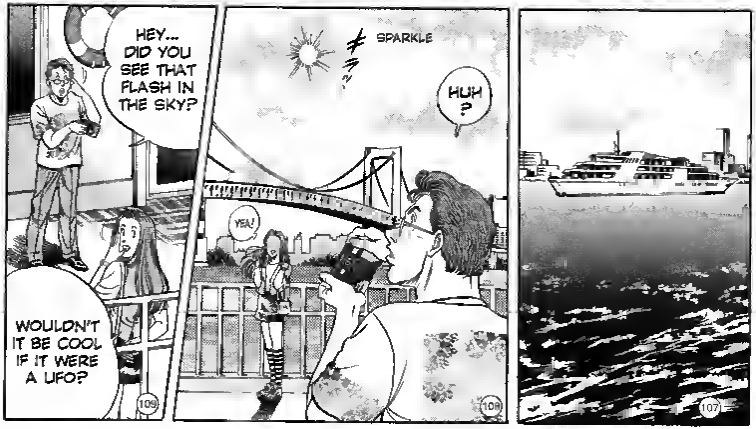
WHAT IS CHINA GOING TO...?
PRIME MINISTER! WHAT HAPPENED?
SHUT UP! ALL OF YOU, JUST SHUT UP!
88
BEEP BEEP
86
TO ASHES...? P-P-PLEASE WAIT, CHAIRMAN WONG!
85
TH.. THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING...
87
DAMN... WHY DOES THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN WHEN I'M PRIME MINISTER?
THEY WOULDN'T...
NO... BUT WHAT IF THEY DID...?
89
OH!
92
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
90
91

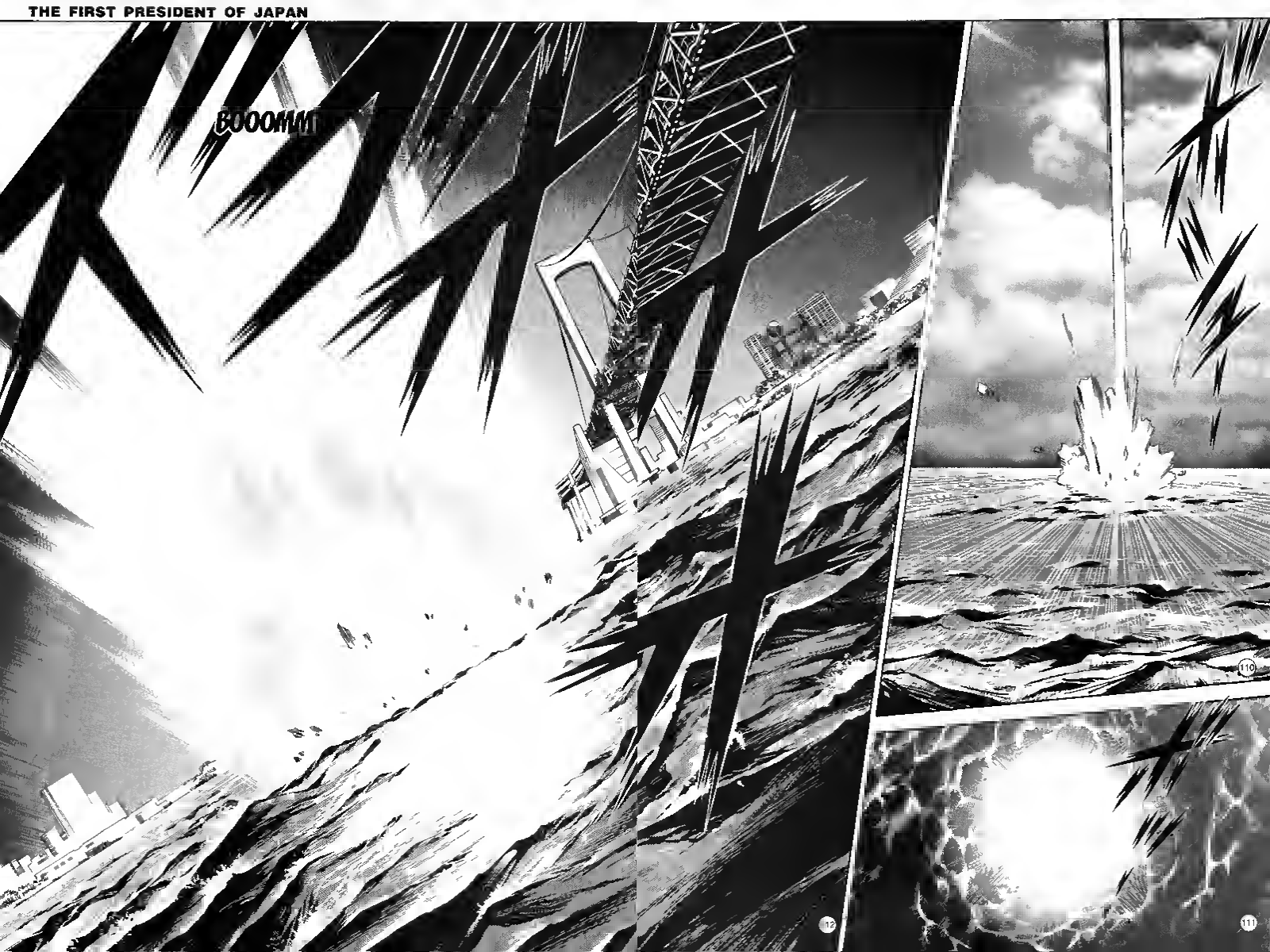
THIS IS CARRADINE.
I HAVE TO NOTIFY JAPAN OF AN EMERGENCY.
96
KACHAK
94
GULP
93
95
TOKYO !!
WHAT !?
100
MR. OHASHI, CALM DOWN AND LISTEN.
CHAIR-MAN WONG JUST CALLED, AND...
M... MR. PRESI-DENT!! YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT JUST HAP-PENED...
98
97
THE TARGET IS...
I'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD FROM THE DIA THAT AN M-11 BALLISTIC MISSILE WAS FIRED FROM THE OUTSKIRTS OF BEIJING ABOUT FIVE MINUTES AGO.
99

I'M SORRY.
OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU.
ポロ
102
WITH OUR PRESENT TECHNOLOGY, WE CANNOT SHOOT DOWN A MISSILE AFTER THREE MINUTES FROM ITS TIME OF LAUNCH
101
WHAT HAS HAPPENED !?
PRIME MINIS-TER!!
ゴッ
103
A...MI-MI-MISSILE HAS BE-BEEN... FIRED...AT... AT...AT...TO... TO... TOKYO!
O... OUR NATION IS FINISHED!!
104

TOKYO BAY
105

106


HEY... DID YOU SEE THAT FLASH IN THE SKY?
WOULDN'T IT BE COOL IF IT WERE A UFO?
109
YEA!
SPARKLE
HUH ?
108
107


BOOOMM

THE CONDITION FOR INDEPENDENCE FROM AMERICA
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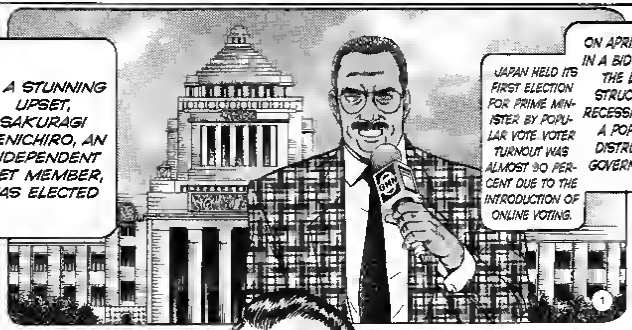
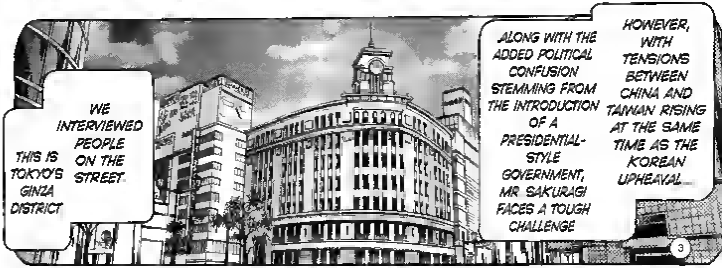
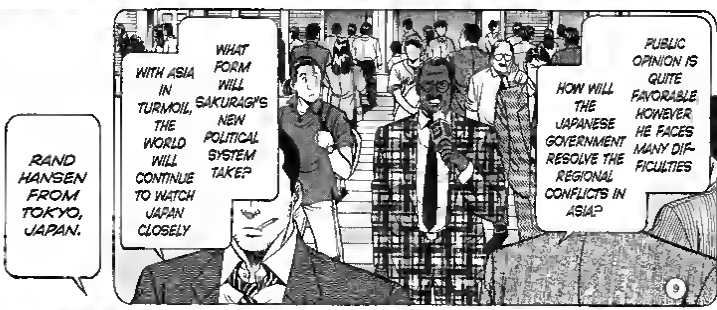

IN A STUNNING UPSET, SAKURAGI KENICHIRO, AN INDEPENDENT DIET MEMBER, WAS ELECTED
JAPAN HELD ITS FIRST ELECTION FOR PRIME MINISTER BY POPULAR VOTE. VOTER TURNOUT WAS ALMOST 90 PERCENT DUE TO THE INTRODUCTION OF ONLINE VOTING.
ON APRIL 22ND, IN A BID TO END THE LONG STRUCTURAL RECESSION AND A POPULAR DISTRUST OF GOVERNMENT
1

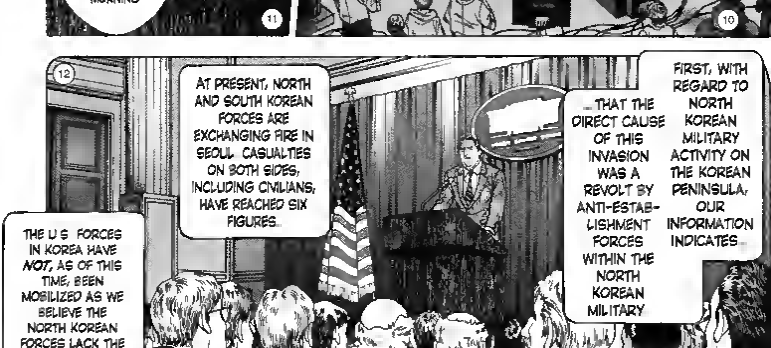
2
BORN IN WASHINGTON STATE, MR. SAKURAGI MOVED TO JAPAN AT THE AGE OF SEVEN
AFTER GRADUATING FROM AN AMERICAN SCHOOL IN JAPAN HE ATTENDED STANFORD UNIVERSITY BEFORE WORKING AS A REPORTER FOR 10 YEARS AT THE WASHINGTON POST
TO MANY HERE, AN AMERICAN IS TAKING OFFICE AS THE "PRESIDENT" OF JAPAN.
CHAPTER 6 :
TERMINATION OF THE U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY (PART 1)


THIS IS TOKYO'S GINZA DISTRICT
WE INTERVIEWED PEOPLE ON THE STREET.
ALONG WITH THE ADDED POLITICAL CONFUSION STEMMING FROM THE INTRODUCTION OF A PRESIDENTIAL-STYLE GOVERNMENT, MR. SAKURAGI FACES A TOUGH CHALLENGE
HOWEVER, WITH TENSIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND TAIWAN RISING AT THE SAME TIME AS THE KOREAN UPHEAVAL...
3

I THINK WE FINALLY HAVE A LEADER WHO CAN ACTUALLY GET THINGS DONE.
IT'S AN ADVANTAGE THAT HE'S SO YOUNG.
DON'T BE STUPID! WHAT THE HECK CAN A KID LIKE THAT ACCOMPLISH?
THE LIBERAL CONSTITUTION PARTY IS THE BEST FOR JAPAN!!
4
5
IT FEELS LIKE THE BIG BANG OF JAPANESE POLITICS.
I EXPECT STRONG LEADERSHIP FROM HIM.
IT'S THE FIRST IMPORTANT POLITICAL REFORM SINCE WORLD WAR II.
WE EVEN AMENDED THE CONSTITUTION FOR THIS ELECTION. I HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF HIM!
6
ICLINE
HE'S SO ELIGIBLE! HE'S TALL AND HANDSOME ...
HE'S GOING TO BE SO POPULAR!
7
MY CONCERN IS THAT IT'LL BE A WHILE BEFORE THIS PRESIDENTIAL GOVERNMENT STARTS OPERATING.
THE INAUGURATION'S NOT FOR SOME TIME, EITHER. I HOPE THE SHIFT FROM THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WILL GO SMOOTHLY!
3
UNLIKE PAST LEADERS, HE'LL LOOK GREAT AT POLITICAL SUMMITS!


RAND HANSEN FROM TOKYO, JAPAN.
WITH ASIA IN TURMOIL, THE WORLD WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH JAPAN CLOSELY
WHAT FORM WILL SAKURAGI'S NEW POLITICAL SYSTEM TAKE?
HOW WILL THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT RESOLVE THE REGIONAL CONFLICTS IN ASIA?
PUBLIC OPINION IS QUITE FAVORABLE HOWEVER HE FACES MANY DIFFICULTIES
9

WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY SAMUEL SEVILLE GAVE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS MORNING
11
CONCERNING THE NORTH KOREAN INVASION OF SOUTH KOREA, AND THE TENSION BETWEEN CHINA AND TAIWAN..
AND NOW, THE CRISES IN ASIA..
10


12
THE U.S. FORCES IN KOREA HAVE NOT, AS OF THIS TIME, BEEN MOBILIZED AS WE BELIEVE THE NORTH KOREAN FORCES LACK THE RESOURCES FOR A SUSTAINED CONFLICT.
AT PRESENT, NORTH AND SOUTH KOREAN FORCES ARE EXCHANGING FIRE IN SEOUL. CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES, INCLUDING CIVILIANS, HAVE REACHED SIX FIGURES.
...THAT THE DIRECT CAUSE OF THIS INVASION WAS A REVOLT BY ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT FORCES WITHIN THE NORTH KOREAN MILITARY
FIRST, WITH REGARD TO NORTH KOREAN MILITARY ACTIVITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA, OUR INFORMATION INDICATES...

IN THE CASE OF A CHINESE INVASION OF TAIWAN, THE US WILL READY ITS ENTIRE ARMED FORCES FOR A POSSIBLE ATTACK ON CHINA
THE US HAS SENT A REQUEST FOR DISARMAMENT TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT VIA DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS
AND REGARDING THE MILITARY TENSION BETWEEN TAIWAN AND CHINA
13
HM?
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE MANUEL ...
15
ASIA IS IN TURMOIL. WE HOPE THAT, LIKE THE GULF WAR, THIS SITUATION WILL UNFOLD WITH FEW CASUALTIES
OUR NEXT STORY: THE GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION IN MICHIGAN
14
ONE MOMENT, PLEASE WE HAVE A SPECIAL NEWS BULLETIN
CNN
16
WHAT?
GOOD LORD!
17

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (PENTAGON)
OUR EARLY WARNING SATELLITES HAVE CONFIRMED THE LAUNCH OF A MISSILE!
EMERGENCY ALERT, EMERGENCY ALERT!!
ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM THE RADAR UNITS OF THE 7TH FLEET, WHICH IS NORTHBOUND IN THE EAST CHINA SEA...
19
19

JUDGING FROM SATELLITE PHOTOS, IT'S AN INTERMEDIATE RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILE!
...2 MINUTES 20 SECONDS AGO, A MISSILE WAS LAUNCHED FROM NORTH BEIJING, CHINA.
IT'S BOUND FOR JAPAN!
20

IT'S TOO LATE TO LAUNCH AN ANTI-BALLISTIC MISSILE...
NUCLEAR LOAD IS UNCONFIRMED!!
22
ITS TRAJECTORY INDICATES A TARGET ON JAPAN'S EASTERN COAST.
THE MAIN TARGET APPEARS TO BE TOKYO!!
21

CHAPTER 6 : TERMINATION OF THE U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY (PART 1)

CHRIST!
25
THE WHITE HOUSE
FIFTEEN MINUTES TO TARGET. MAXIMUM!
WE'VE ACTIVATED ALL U.S. MILITARY BASES IN JAPAN TO EMERGENCY COMBAT READINESS!
24
YES, SIR!!
DAN, CALL THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND ASK 'EM WHY THE HELL THEY FIRED!
SECRETARY OF STATE DAN KLUMSKY
27
26
I WANT HELICOPTERS UP IN THE REGION TO GET PHOTOS AFTER THE MISSILE HITS!
AND TELL 'EM THAT DEPENDING ON THE OUTCOME, WE WILL POINT OUR ICBMS TOWARDS BEIJING!
PUT ALL U.S. FORCES ON EMERGENCY COMBAT READINESS!
28
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ALEX CARRADINE

YES, SIR!
29
SPIDER, WHAT IS CHINA'S REAL INTENTION?
30
ACCORDING TO THE CIA, LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT IS SHAKY
IT'S DIFFICULT TO JUDGE IF THIS OUTRAGE IS DUE TO A REVOLT WITHIN THE MILITARY OR CONFUSION WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT
31
ONE THING IS CERTAIN..
THAT MISSILE WILL DESTROY THE JAPAN WE'VE KNOWN
CHIEF AIDE TO THE PRESIDENT JEFFERSON SPIDEN
32
VERY TRUE...
I GUESS IT'S MY DUTY TO NOTIFY OUR ALLY.
33
SIR?
SHOULDN'T YOU CALL SOMEONE TOO, SPIDER?
34
IF CHINA'S PLAYING HARDBALL...
YOU AND YOUR WIFE WILL NEVER SEE YOUR BEST FRIEND AGAIN!!
35

YAMASHITA PARK, YOKOHAMA
36
37
SAKURAGI SPEAKING.
KEN! IT'S ME. LISTEN CAREFULLY...
I HAVE BAD NEWS.
38
39
THEY WHAT?
FIRED?
40

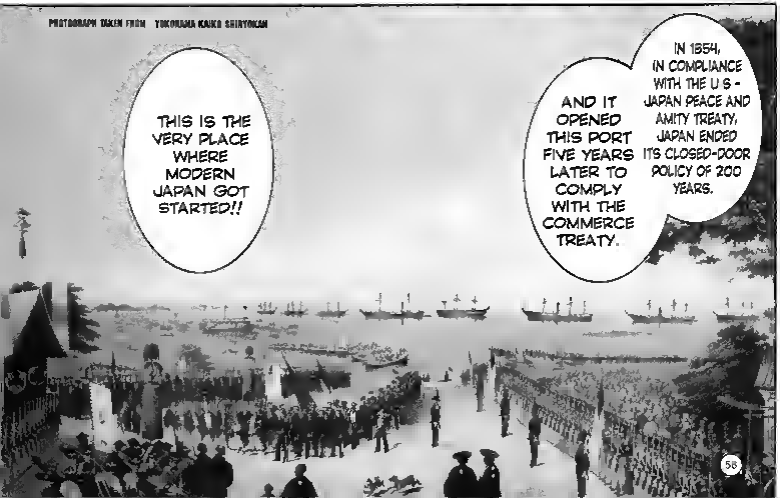
AN INTERMEDIATE RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILE FROM CHINA!
TWO MINUTES TO CONTACT!
NUCLEAR LOAD UNCONFIRMED!
KEN! ARE YOU STILL THERE, KEN?
THUMP
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48

HEY, SPIDER... LET'S BET ON THIS, LIKE OLD TIMES.
HOW ABOUT...
WINE! YEAH, HOW ABOUT A BOTTLE OF CHATEAU FIGEAC, FROM THE YEAR I WAS BORN?
49
TH... THIS IS NO TIME FOR JOKES!! BESIDES,
I'M NOT SICK ENOUGH TO PLACE BETS ON MY BEST FRIEND'S LIFE!!
50
TRUE, IT MIGHT BE TYPICAL CHINESE SABER RATTLING, BUT...
52
IT'S A BLUFF !!
51
CONSIDERING THE TIMING, IT'S UNLIKELY THAT CHINA WOULD ISOLATE ITSELF FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD.
I'M CERTAIN! THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF IT BEING A NUCLEAR MISSILE!!
53

HARBOR VIEW PARK
YOKOHAMA
SPIDER, I'M STANDING ON A HILL OVER-LOOKING THE PORT OF YOKOHAMA.
I LOVE THIS SPOT.
57

I'VE NEVER MET A JAPANESE POLITICIAN AS STRONG-WILLED AS YOU
HUMPH. YOU'RE PRETTY CONFIDENT.
55
54

I GUESS THE JAPANESE PEOPLE MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE.
56


PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN FROM YOKOHAMA KAIKO SHIRYOKAN
THIS IS THE VERY PLACE WHERE MODERN JAPAN GOT STARTED!!
AND IT OPENED THIS PORT FIVE YEARS LATER TO COMPLY WITH THE COMMERCE TREATY.
IN 1854, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE U.S - JAPAN PEACE AND AMITY TREATY, JAPAN ENDED IT'S CLOSED-DOOR POLICY OF 200 YEARS.
58

ISN'T IT IRONIC THAT I'M HERE WHEN JAPAN'S FATE IS TO BE DECIDED?
I, THE MAN ENTRUSTED WITH THE FUTURE OF A NEW NATION IT'S DESTINY
59
60
SPIDER!! STAY ON THE PHONE!!
IF IT'S TRULY A NUCLEAR MISSILE, ITS ELECTRO-MAGNETIC PULSE WILL CUT THE PHONE OFF!
61
KEN !!
LISTEN AND CONFIRM IF IT'S A NUKE!
62

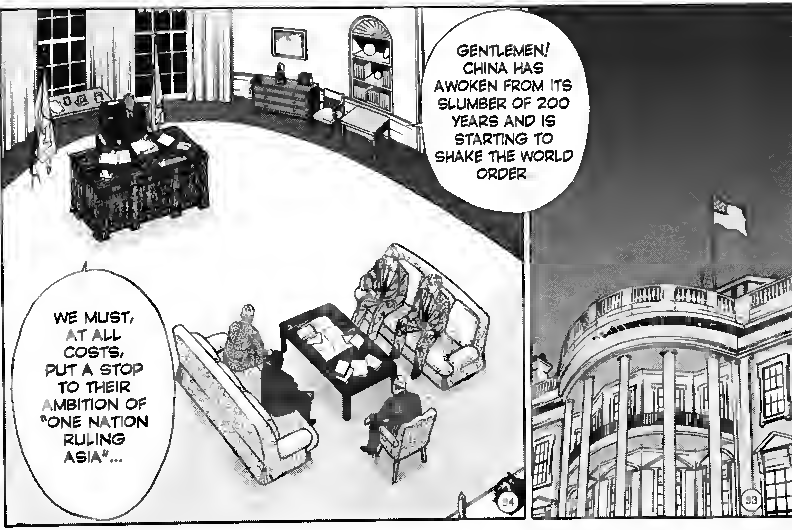
65
TICK
64
TICK
66
TICK
67
TICK
63

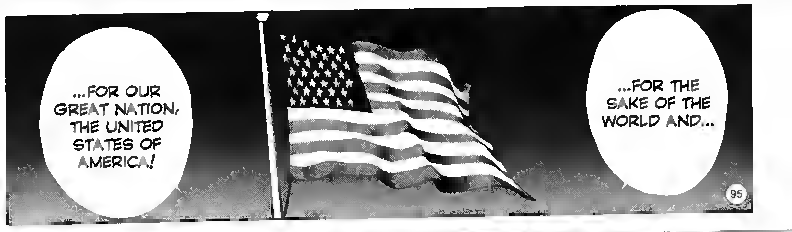
68
69
70
SPARKLE...
71
72
73

BOOOMM
74
75
76
77
78

82
I GUESS I WON THE BET.
KEN!!
PLEASE! SAY SOMETHING !!
KEN!! KEN!!
80
79
.....
81
84
THE WINDS OF CHANGE ARE BLOWING HARD.
AND JAPAN IS ABOUT TO BECOME THE EYE OF THE HURRICANE.
SIGH
TSUU
83
I'M GOING TO BUILD A NEW JAPAN.
ONE THAT CAN WEATHER ANY STORM.
85

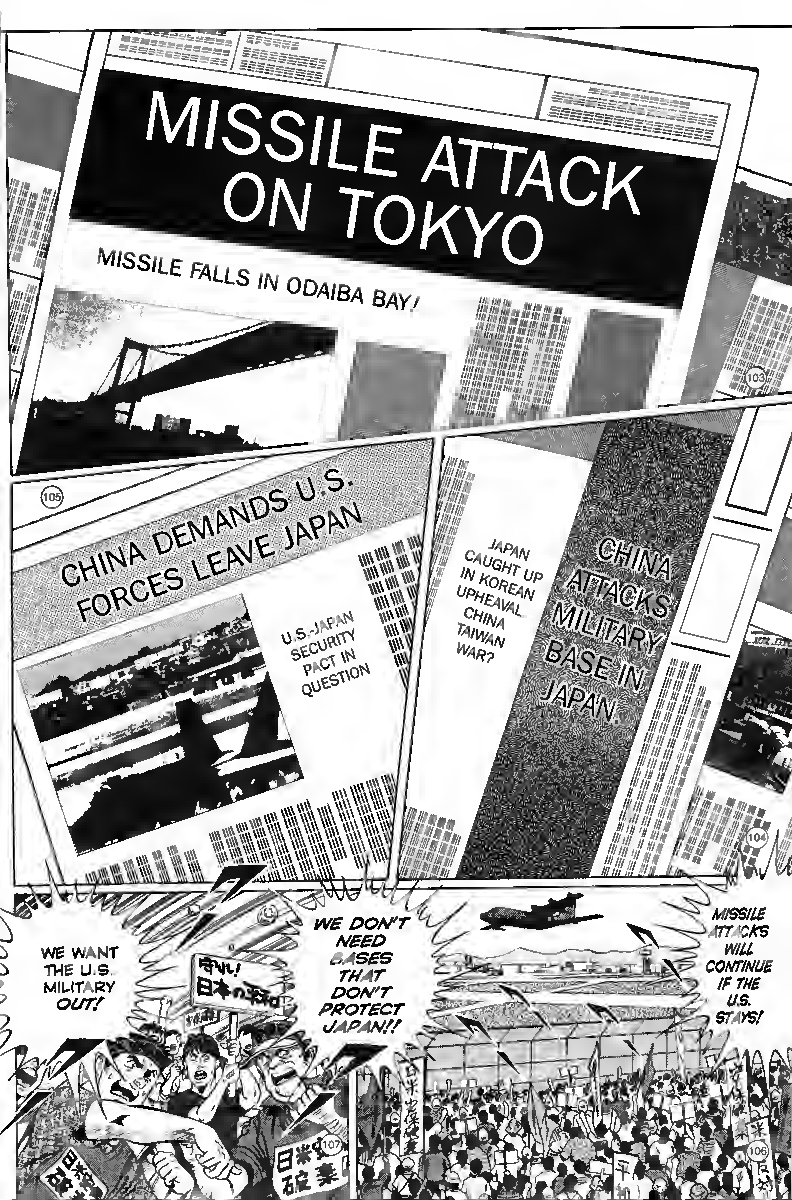
BY THE WAY...
88
GOOD LUCK, KEN!!
87
WHAT?
I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO TREAT YOU TO THAT CHATEAU FIGEAC FOR A WHILE...
89
86
CLICK
90
91
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SPIDER?
92


GENTLEMEN! CHINA HAS AWOKEN FROM ITS SLUMBER OF 200 YEARS AND IS STARTING TO SHAKE THE WORLD ORDER
WE MUST, AT ALL COSTS, PUT A STOP TO THEIR AMBITION OF "ONE NATION RULING ASIA"...
94
93


...FOR OUR GREAT NATION, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!
...FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD AND...
95

WE NOW ENTER THE FINAL PHASE OF OUR ASIAN STRATEGY!
96

THE CHINESE MISSILE THAT LANDED IN TOKYO TODAY WAS NOT INTENDED FOR JAPAN!
WE NOW BRING YOU THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN WONG, BROADCAST ON CHINESE NATIONAL TELEVISION!
97
IF JAPAN AND AMERICA CONTINUE TO INTERVENE IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS REGARDING TAIWAN...
OUR TARGET WAS A U.S. MILITARY COMPOUND IN JAPAN, THE BASE FOR AMERICAN RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT THAT ARE FLYING OVER THE SKIES OF TAIWAN WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION.
39
102
101
AND WE CAN'T PROMISE THE NEXT ONE WILL NOT BE A NUCLEAR MISSILE!!
WE WILL NOT HESITATE TO LAUNCH A SECOND OR THIRD MISSILE
100


MISSILE ATTACK ON TOKYO
MISSILE FALLS IN ODAIBA BAY!
103
CHINA DEMANDS U.S. FORCES LEAVE JAPAN
105
U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY PACT IN QUESTION
JAPAN CAUGHT UP IN KOREAN UPHEAVAL CHINA TAIWAN WAR?
CHINA ATTACKS MILITARY BASE IN JAPAN
104
WE WANT THE U.S. MILITARY OUT!
WE DON'T NEED BASES THAT DON'T PROTECT JAPAN!!
MISSILE ATTACKS WILL CONTINUE IF THE U.S. STAYS!
107
106

NOT ONLY DO WE PROVIDE BASES TO THE U.S., WE PAY 400 BILLION YEN A YEAR FOR THEM TO STAY!
THE U.S HAS DONE NOTHING FOR JAPAN AFTER THE MISSILE ATTACK!
WE SHOULD TERMINATE THIS MEANINGLESS, UNEQUAL TREATY!
109
THE SECURITY TREATY BECAME UNNECESSARY ONCE THE COLD WAR WAS OVER!
緊急討論番組
日米安保を問う
TV DEBATE QUESTIONING THE U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY
108
THAT'S JUST WHAT CHINA WANTS US TO DO!
IT WAS JAPAN THAT WAS ATTACKED, NOT THE US!
OUR SELF-DEFENSE FORCE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER WITH THE U.S MILITARY AND CONFRONT CHINA!
110
THEY WERE SAFE ONLY BECAUSE OF U.S. MILITARY PROTECTION!
AND IF WE DO TERMINATE THE U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY,
WE'LL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR SHIPPING LANES.
111
THE SAME GOES FOR OUR AIR ROUTES...
SINCE JAPAN DEPENDS MOSTLY ON IMPORTS FOR FOOD AND OIL, WE'LL BE IN SERIOUS DANGER IF WE SPOIL OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S.!!
112
BUT IF THINGS STAY AS THEY ARE, WE'LL BE ATTACKED FOR REAL!
SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO!?

THE CONDITION FOR INDEPENDENCE
FROM AMERICA
THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF JAPAN
日本国初代大統領・桜木唯一郎

CHAPTER 7 : TERMINATION OF THE U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY (PART 2)

GET RID OF THE U.S. MILITARY!! WHY AREN'T WE DOING ANYTHING!?
COME OUT, OHASHI !!
WE'LL BE ATTACKED AGAIN !!
WE WANT A STATEMENT!
日米安保絶対反対
大橋 出て来い
米軍撤退!!
4
3

STAND BACK FOR YOUR SAFETY !!
STAND BACK!
日米安保反対
米軍は出て行け!!
2

WHY... WHY ALL THIS WHEN I'M PRIME MINISTER?
PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN
OHASHI TAKAHIRO
7

TH... THIS IS TURNING INTO A RIOT!
THE SITUATION'S CRITICAL
5

PRIME MINISTER !!
WE SHOULD DECLARE MARTIAL LAW AND SUPPRESS THEM!
6

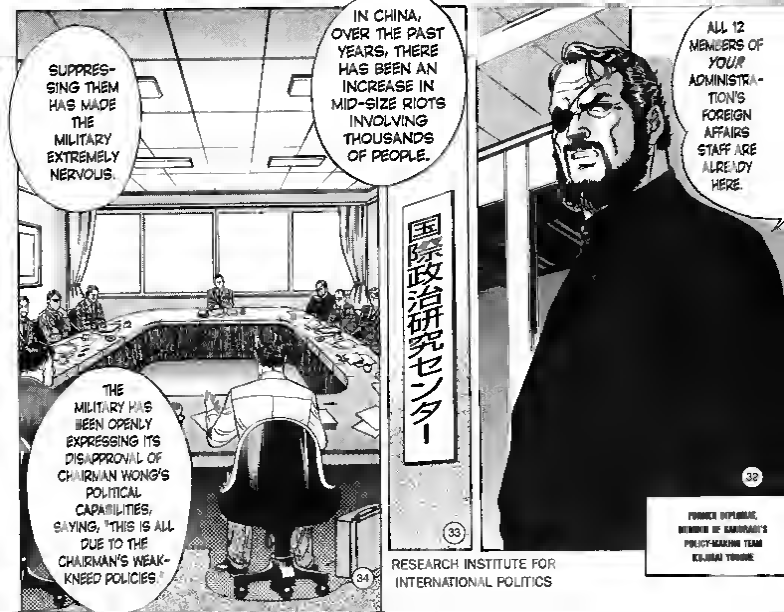
PRIME MINISTER!! THE DEMONSTRATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WILL KEEP GETTING BIGGER!
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO EXPLAIN TO THE PUBLIC PERSONALLY, IN A TELEVISED STATEMENT!!
11
UH... YES, SIR!
YOU!! WHAT ABOUT OUR APPEAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS!?
8
10
UGGH
TH... THEY'VE ACCEPTED IT AS A PENDING ISSUE, BUT WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM THEM YET...
9
12
14
I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO MY CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY...
SORRY, BUT WOULD THE REST OF YOU EXCUSE US?
13
TOUP
L... LET ME THINK ABOUT THIS..

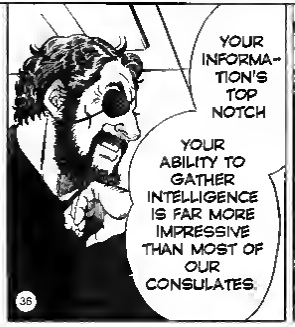
PERHAPS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U S HAS OUTLIVED ITS USEFULNESS
U S POLICIES AS WELL AS THE TIMES HAVE CHANGED VIEWS ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WITH RESPECT TO MILITARY ALLIANCES AND SECURITY TREATIES
CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SATO SHOJI
17
15
16
WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE ?
ONE WRONG MOVE AND OUR CABINET IS FINISHED
HOW SO?
VIEWED IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT, THIS COULD BE AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY.
18
21
YOU.. YOU DON'T MEAN..
IT MAY BE WISER FOR JAPAN TO THINK OF ITS FUTURE AS A MEMBER OF THE ASIAN COMMUNITY..
IF WE CANNOT EXPECT ANY FURTHER COOPERATION FROM THE U S..
20
WHICH IS WHY OUR FACTION HAS ACCEPTED FUNDS FROM THE PRESENT CHINESE GOVERNMENT FOR ALL THESE YEARS...
THE CHINESE DISTRUST PEOPLE WHO WON'T TAKE MONEY FROM THEM...
19

I AM SUGGESTING THAT YOU PROCEED WITH NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHINA, USING OUR FACTION'S DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS
22
IN PLACE OF THE U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY...
23
... CONCLUDE A JAPAN-CHINA SECURITY TREATY!!
24

JAPAN AND... CHINA !?
25
OF COURSE, OUR PRIORITY SHOULD BE THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U.S.
THIS PLAN IS A LAST RESORT, IN CASE ALL ELSE FAILS.
26
THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS IN OUR FACTION. I'LL WORK ON THIS SECRETLY WITH HIM.
DEPENDING ON WHAT HAPPENS, MR. PRIME MINISTER, WE MAY BE COMMITTING POLITICAL SUICIDE.
27
28

TOKYO
ガヤ
ガヤ
29
YOU'RE LATE, SAKURAGI!
KUJIRAI?
30
31


国際政治研究センター
IN CHINA, OVER THE PAST YEARS, THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN MID-SIZE RIOTS INVOLVING THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE.
SUPPRESSING THEM HAS MADE THE MILITARY EXTREMELY NERVOUS.
THE MILITARY HAS BEEN OPENLY EXPRESSING ITS DISAPPROVAL OF CHAIRMAN WONG'S POLITICAL CAPABILITIES, SAYING, "THIS IS ALL DUE TO THE CHAIRMAN'S WEAK-KNEED POLICIES."
33
34
ALL 12 MEMBERS OF YOUR ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS STAFF ARE ALREADY HERE.
32
FORMER DIPLOMAT, MEMBER OF KAMIKAZE'S POLICY-MAKING TEAM
KUJIRAI TOSHIE
RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

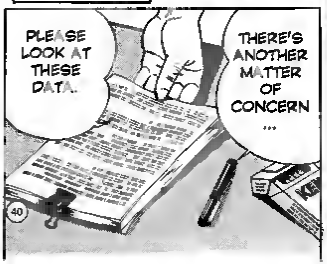

YOUR INFORMATION'S TOP NOTCH
YOUR ABILITY TO GATHER INTELLIGENCE IS FAR MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN MOST OF OUR CONSULATES.
36

HE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE KOREAN UPHEAVAL MERELY TO INTIMIDATE BOTH TAIWAN AND JAPAN.
THUS, CHAIRMAN WONG NEEDED TO FEIGN AGGRESSION AND MAKE HIS MILITARY HAPPY
FORMER EMPLOYEE OF MITSUZUMI CORPORATION, CHINA BRANCH
IKEGAMI MASAOMI
35

HOW FOOLISH OF THEM. CHINA'S A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL. WHEN CHINA EXERCISES ITS POWER TO VETO, THAT PLAN WILL FALL APART.
THE OHASHI CABINET HAS PLACED AN EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR THE UNITED NATIONS TO DISPATCH THE U.N. TROOPS
37

JAPAN, A U.N. DEPENDENCY.
39

EVER SINCE IT WAS FORMED, THE UNITED NATIONS HAS HARDLY BEEN A "SANCTUARY OF PEACE."
IT'S MERELY A PLACE WHERE COUNTRIES NEGOTIATE THEIR TRADITIONAL FOREIGN POLICIES WITH ONE ANOTHER.
WITH NO CONCRETE FOREIGN POLICY OF OUR OWN, WE RELY ON OTHER COUNTRIES FOR EVERYTHING AND ASK FOR THEIR HELP ALL THE TIME. WE'RE THE LAUGHING STOCK OF THE WORLD.
38


PLEASE LOOK AT THESE DATA.
THERE'S ANOTHER MATTER OF CONCERN ...
40

...THEY HAVE SHADY DEALINGS WITH CHINA.
SO WHILE THEY MAINTAIN A MILITARY ALLIANCE WITH THE U.S....
42
THIS IS DANGEROUS.
43
MANY JAPANESE COMPANIES HAVE ACTIVELY ADVANCED INTO THE CHINESE MARKET OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS.
NISSAN
Nikon
TOYOT
SUNTORY
日立 METACHI
THE OHASHI FACTION, THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION'S LARGEST FACTION, HAS BEEN THE MOST ACTIVE SUPPORTER OF THIS
41
OK. I UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION IN CHIHA...
BUT I'M CONCERNED ABOUT ONE THING
HMM P
44
THE U.S.
THEY HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING SPECIFIC, EVEN AFTER THE MISSILE ATTACK
...THAT'S TRUE
FOR A COUNTRY THAT CALLS ITSELF "THE POLICE OF THE WORLD," THEY'VE BEEN TOO QUIET
46
45

49
AMERICA'S OBJECTIVE IS CLEAR
48
AMERICA IS A "GUN-SLINGING SALESMAN", SO TO SPEAK.
THERE IS ALWAYS AN ECONOMIC POLICY BEHIND THEIR MILITARY ACTIONS.
FORMER CHIEF RESEARCHER FOR RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN STRATEGY WASHIO SEIJI
VERY ASTUTE, MR. SAKURAGI. YOUR BACK-GROUND DOES YOU GOOD.
SIAM
47
AMERICA IS A COUNTRY THAT WILL DO ANYTHING TO PROPAGATE THE DOLLAR ECONOMY!
50
DOMI-NANCE OF THE DOLLAR-BASED EXCHANGE!
50
VERY WELL, THEN!!
53
I SEE... SO, THAT'S HOW THINGS ARE, SPIDER.
52
EVEN DURING THESE ASIAN CRISES I EXPECT THAT THE U.S. IS COOLLY ANALYZING HOW IT CAN BENEFIT.
51

I WANT ALL INFORMATION ON RECENT DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT!!
OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL, EVERYTHING!!
54
MISSILE!!!
KILL THE U.S-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY NOW!
55
IS THE GOVERNMENT TRYING TO GET US DESTROYED?
GET RID OF THE TREATY AND RESTORE PEACE IN JAPAN!
57
THE U.S MILITARY ISN'T PROTECTING JAPAN! GO BACK TO AMERICA!!
58

URRRGH...
59

PRIME MINISTER! RALLIES ABOUT THE MILITARY BASES AND THE ASIAN CRISIS ARE BEING HELD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY!!
TENSIONS ARE MOUNTING NATION-WIDE!
59

M... MR. PRESIDENT! JAPAN IS IN A STATE OF PANIC DUE TO THE MISSILE ATTACK AND THE STATEMENT FROM CHINA...
I THINK WE NEED TO URGENTLY DISCUSS SOME MATTERS!
63

WELL... WE HAVE CALLED THEM MANY TIMES IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, BUT WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO...
HAVEN'T YOU BEEN ABLE TO SET UP A PHONE CONFERENCE WITH THE U.S. YET?
70

GULP...
62

PRESIDENT CARRADINE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR A PHONE CONFERENCE WITH PRIME MINISTER OHASHI AT 1 PM...
THE WHITE HOUSE HAS CALLED !
67

JAPAN CANNOT HANDLE THIS CRISIS BY ITSELF.
WE... WE ARE NO LONGER ABLE TO OVERCOME THIS DIFFICULTY WITHOUT YOUR HELP...
65
WE WERE COMPLETELY OCCUPIED IN DEALING WITH THESE CRISES.
HOW IS THE SITUATION IN JAPAN?
64
IF THIS SITUATION CONTINUES, CHINA WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TAKE STERNER MILITARY ACTION NEXT.
66
I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU MUST FEEL.
MR OHASHI! WE'VE BEEN GREAT PARTNERS FOR A LONG TIME
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CAN NO LONGER SIT BACK AND IGNORE THE SUFFERING OF AN ALLY.
70
... OUR NATION WILL BE COMPLETELY DESTROYED !!
OH...OH, NO! IF THIS MILITARY INTIMIDATION CONTINUES, OUR CABINET... I MEAN...
KNEEL
67
PLEASE ... PLEASE HELP US!!
M... MR. PRESIDENT !
69
68

TER...
TERMINATE THE U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY!
WE WILL WITH-DRAW OUR TROOPS.
TERMINATE THE TREATY !?
72
71

WHEN IT'S ALL OVER WE CAN DISCUSS OUR NEW RELATIONSHIP.
FIRST, WE MUST END THIS ASIAN CRISIS.
75

B... BUT WE WISH TO MAINTAIN OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH THE U.S. AND...
74

IT'S EXTREMELY DAMAGING FOR THE U.S. TO LOSE ITS MILITARY BASES IN ASIA
BUT PERHAPS THIS IS THE BEST THING TO DO, CONSIDERING THE FUTURE OF JAPAN..
73

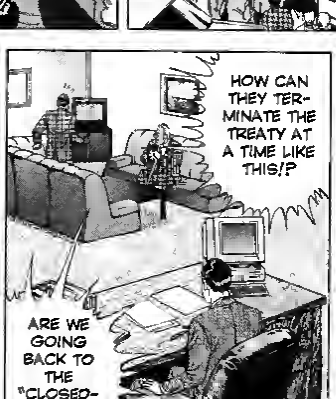
I'LL MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS RIGHT AWAY !
...
I THANK YOU, PRESIDENT CARRADINE!!
70

HMPH.
HA... HA HA HA...
79
78
77
BEEE...
81
Timothy
ニヤリ...
82
HA HA HA HA
83
JUST LIKE ALWAYS, JAPAN HAS NO DIPLOMATIC SKILLS.
HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR OUR OFFER, JUST AS WE ANTICIPATED
80

PRESSURED BY PUBLIC OPINION, THE CABINET HAS RESOLVED TO TERMINATE THE U.S-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY!
85

WE'RE LIVE AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE.
THE EXTRA-ORDINARY CABINET MEETING CONVENED LAST NIGHT HAS JUST ENDED!
84

THE BIGGEST DISADVANTAGE WITH THE TERMINATION OF THE U.S-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY IS NOT SECURITY OR FOOD...
IT'S THE LACK OF INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION!
86


HOW CAN THEY TERMINATE THE TREATY AT A TIME LIKE THIS!?
ARE WE GOING BACK TO THE "CLOSED-DOOR" ERA AGAIN!?
87

F... FOOLS !!
桜木健一郎事務所
OFFICE OF SAKURAGI KENICHIRO
88

HOW DOES OHASHI EXPECT TO OVERCOME THESE ASIAN CRISES IF HE'S BLIND AND DEAF?
IF THE INFORMATION WE OBTAIN FROM COMMUNICATION SATELLITES IS BLOCKED, JAPAN WILL SUFFER AN ENORMOUS LOSS
JAPAN OBTAINS MOST OF ITS STATE-LEVEL INFORMATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT, MILITARY, AND CORPORATIONS OF THE U.S.
89

KUJIRAI, PLEASE PUT A RUSH ON THAT U.S. ANALYSIS.
92
SIR?
90
IT'S A TRICK.
THE AMERICANS ARE DEFINITELY UP TO SOMETHING!
IT'S STRANGE THAT A COUNTRY LIKE AMERICA, WHICH CONSIDERS ITS NATIONAL INTEREST ABOVE ALL ELSE, WOULD SO EASILY WITHDRAW FROM JAPAN, ITS ECONOMIC BASE IN ASIA...
91
93
IT MAY BE TOO LATE FOR JAPAN TO RECOVER!
IF WE DON'T FIND OUT IMMEDIATELY WHAT AMERICA'S TRUE INTENTIONS ARE...
95
THE NEXT DAY
355 YEA AND 145 NAY.
THIS BILL IS VOTED INTO LAW!!
94

THE DAILY GUTSOON

EXTRA! EXTRA!

U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY TERMINATED

BIRTH OF A NEW JAPAN

96

WE SHALL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN OUR FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. AS WELL AS WITH THE OTHER COUNTRIES IN OUR REGION.

THE U.S. MILITARY FORCES STATIONED HERE WILL BEGIN WITHDRAWING FROM JAPAN IMMEDIATELY.

98

WE HAVE JUST NOTIFIED THE U.S. OF THE TERMINATION OF THE U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY!

97

100

DUE TO THE TREATY'S TERMINATION, THE BUDGET FOR MAINTAINING THE AMERICAN BASES HAS BEEN ELIMINATED. CITIZENS WHO LIVE NEAR THE BASES CAN FEEL RELIEVED!

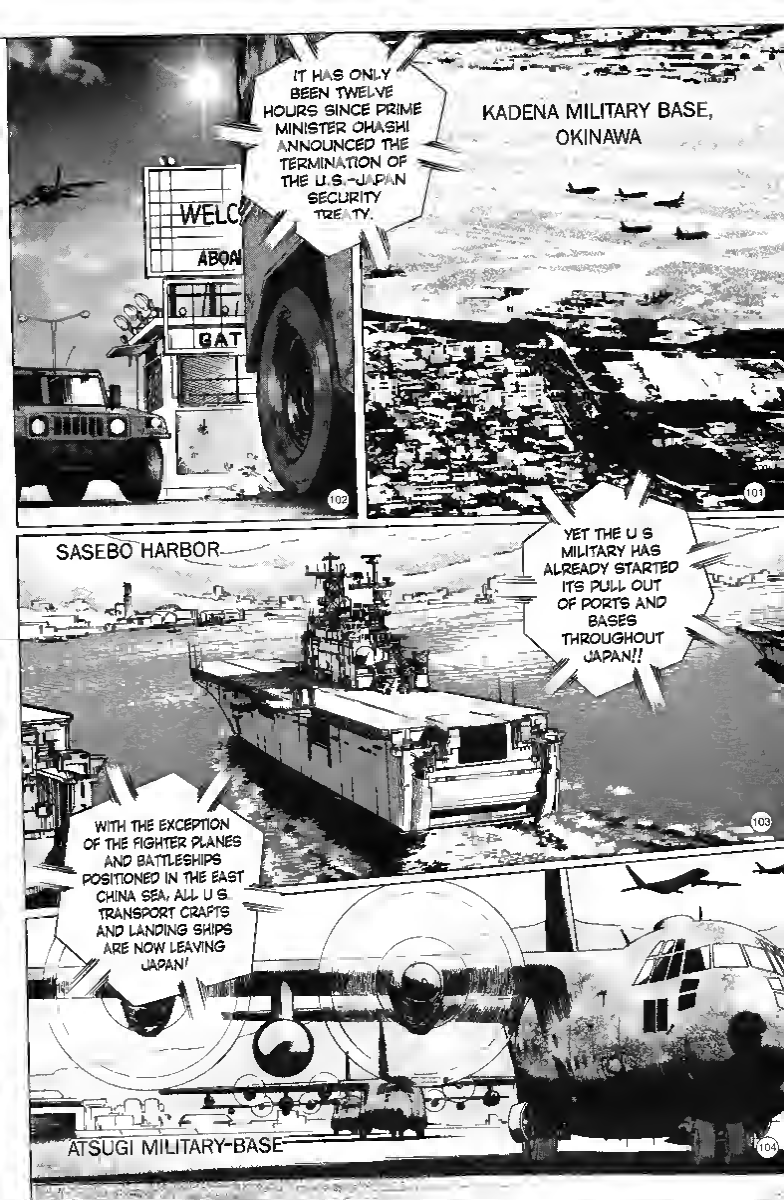
THE APPROVAL RATING FOR PRIME MINISTER OHASHI'S CABINET IS RAPIDLY IMPROVING!!

祝 安保破棄

THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT OF APPROVAL.

THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER MISSILE ATTACK IS GONE!

99


IT HAS ONLY BEEN TWELVE HOURS SINCE PRIME MINISTER OHASHI ANNOUNCED THE TERMINATION OF THE U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY.
KADENA MILITARY BASE, OKINAWA
WELC
ABOA
GAT
102
101
SASEBO HARBOR
YET THE U S MILITARY HAS ALREADY STARTED ITS PULL OUT OF PORTS AND BASES THROUGHOUT JAPAN!!
103
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FIGHTER PLANES AND BATTLESHIPS POSITIONED IN THE EAST CHINA SEA, ALL U S TRANSPORT CRAFTS AND LANDING SHIPS ARE NOW LEAVING JAPAN!
ATSUGI MILITARY-BASE
104

IT'S AS IF THEY WERE PREPARED TO LEAVE, EVEN BEFORE OHASHI SUGGESTED THE TERMINATION OF THE TREATY.
106

桜木健一郎事務所
STRANGE ..
WHAT ?
OFFICES OF SAKURAGI KENICHIRO
105

WH...
WHAT !?

LOOK! IT'S UNBELIEVABLE THAT THEY CAME UP WITH THIS!
108

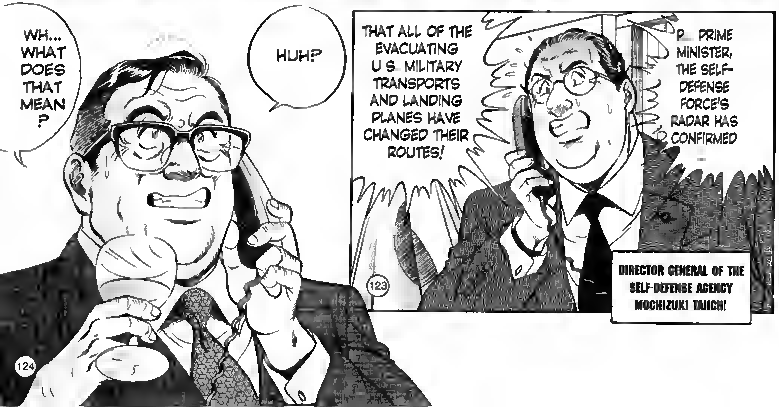
SAKURAGI !! I FOUND OUT WHOM THE U.S. HAS BEEN SPEAKING TO!
107

109

WE'LL PROBABLY HAVE NOTHING TO DO
I WONDER WHAT'LL HAPPEN AFTER THE U.S MILITARY'S GONE.
偵察レーダー室
RECONNAISSANCE RADAR ROOM
SELF DEFENSE AGENCY
東京防衛施設局
防衛施設庁
HUH?
HMM?
THE CEREMONY FOR THE MILITARY PULLOUT WAS A SUCCESS!
3" 3" 3"
LET'S MAKE A TOAST!
THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE HEADED TO HAWAII. THEY'RE GOING THE WRONG WAY!
HEY, AREN'T THESE AMERICAN FORCES TRANSPORTS?
CALL THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, IMMEDIATELY!

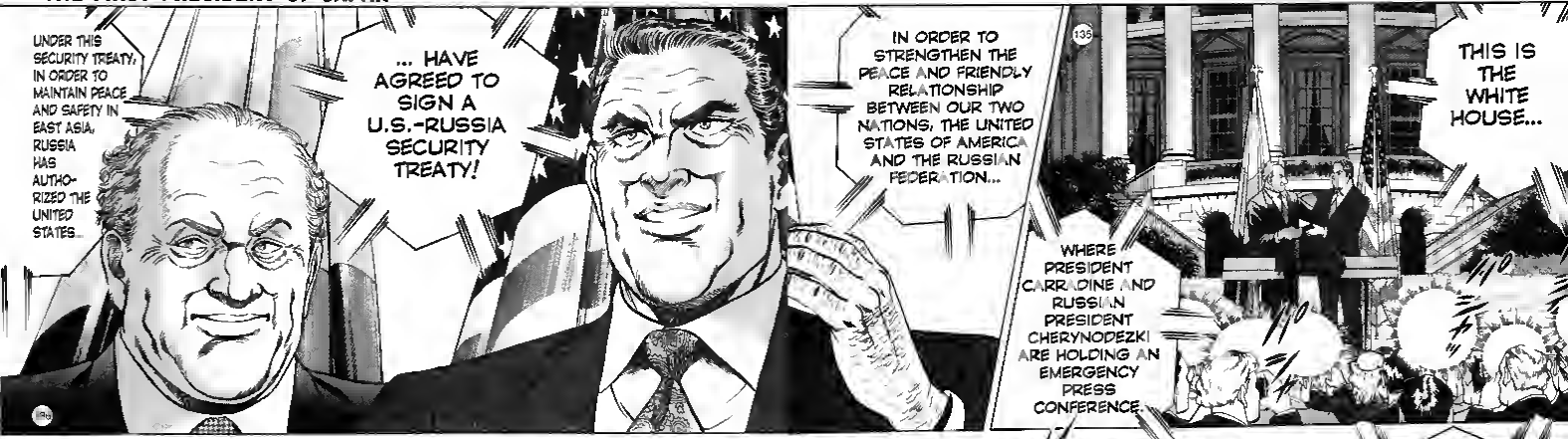
HA HA HA!
THANKS TO THE ASIAN CRISIS
120
WITHOUT EXCEPTION, THE MEDIA ARE PRAISING YOU AS THE BEST PRIME MINISTER SINCE WWII!
THE APPROVAL RATINGS FOR OUR CABINET HAVE SET A NEW RECORD! THIS CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION!
119
RING
121

HUH? WHAT DID YOU SAY?
122
HELLO? AH, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE SELF-DEFENSE AGENCY!
WHY DON'T YOU STOP BY? WE WERE JUST HAVING A TOAST..


WH... WHAT DOES THAT MEAN ?
HUH?
THAT ALL OF THE EVACUATING U.S. MILITARY TRANSPORTS AND LANDING PLANES HAVE CHANGED THEIR ROUTES!
P... PRIME MINISTER, THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE'S RADAR HAS CONFIRMED
123
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE SELF-DEFENSE AGENCY MOCHIZUKI TAIICHI!
124

W... WHAT!?
SAKURAGI! THE U.S. IS ALREADY MAKING ITS MOVE...
THE U.S. MILITARY SHIPS AND PLANES HAVE CHANGED THEIR ROUTES AND ARE PROGRESSING NORTHBOUND!!
126
125
WE'VE BEEN HAD!
THESE STUDIES OF THEIR FREQUENT SECRET MEETINGS WITH RUSSIA PROVE IT.
127
R... RUSSIA !?
129
... ITS FORMER ARCHENEMY FROM THE COLD WAR !!
THE U.S. PLANS TO TEAM WITH...
AND... THE DESTINATION OF THEIR ARMED FORCES.
130
128

HERE!!
131
132
THAT... THAT CAN'T BE ..
HOW COULD THE U.S. BE SO TREACHEROUS ?
THEY STILL HAVEN'T LOST THEIR FRONTIER SPIRIT.
133
THE U.S. HAS GIVEN UP ON JAPAN IN A BID TO CONQUER ALL OF ASIA!
THIS IS THEIR NEW FRON-TIER!!
134


UNDER THIS SECURITY TREATY, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND SAFETY IN EAST ASIA, RUSSIA HAS AUTHO-RIZED THE UNITED STATES...
... HAVE AGREED TO SIGN A U.S.-RUSSIA SECURITY TREATY!
IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE PEACE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION...
136
THIS IS THE WHITE HOUSE...
WHERE PRESIDENT CARRADINE AND RUSSIAN PRESIDENT CHERYNODEZKI ARE HOLDING AN EMERGENCY PRESS CONFERENCE.

... TO USE LAND, SEA, AND AIR FACILITIES IN THE RUSSIAN-HELD NORTHERN TERRITORIES OF JAPAN!!
THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF JAPAN VOLUME 1 END.
137

THE FIRST PHESIDENT OF JAPAN, Vol.1

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